SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

1984 OFFICIAL YEARBOOK

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HORS CONCOURS MEMBRE DU JURY PARIS 1900
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AMSTERDAM 1883
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EST 1873
BREWED IN HOLLAND
HEINEKEN BROUWERIJEN B.V. AMSTERDAM
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America's #1 imported beer."

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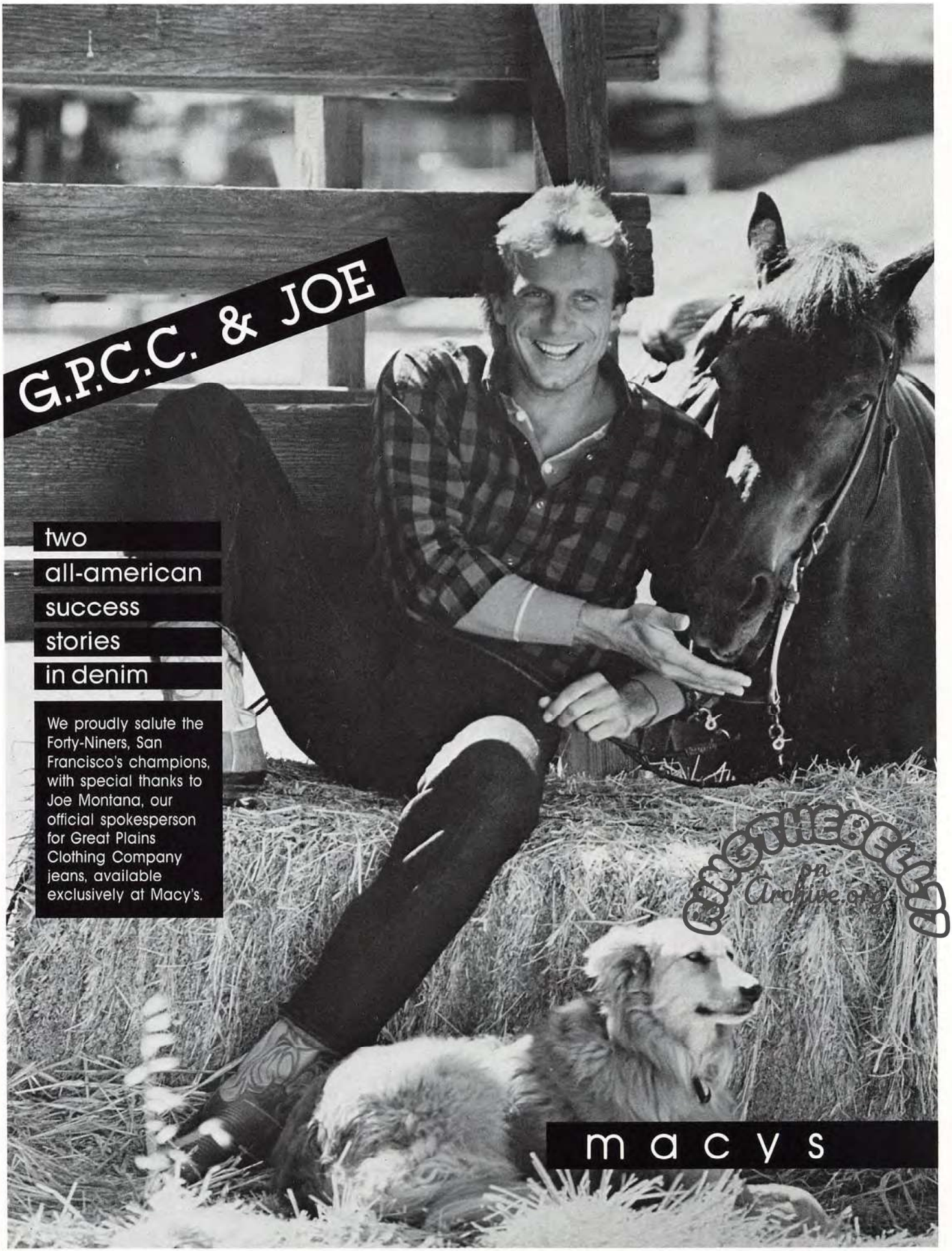
OFFICIAL 1984 YEARBOOK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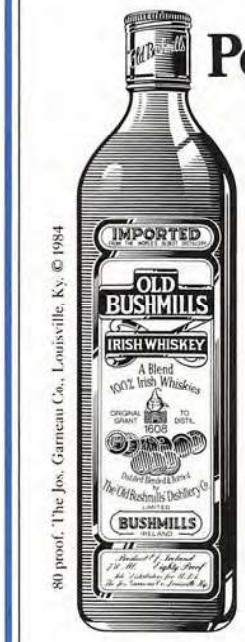
success
stories
in denim
We proudly salute the Forty-Niners, San Francisco's champions, with special thanks to Joe Montana, our official spokesperson for Great Plains Clothing Company jeans, available exclusively at Macy's.
macys

1984 SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	KICK-OFF
Sun.	Sept. 2	Detroit	10A
Mon.	Sept. 10	WASHINGTON	6P
Sun.	Sept. 16	NEW ORLEANS	1P
Sun.	Sept. 23	Philadelphia	10A
Sun.	Sept. 30	ATLANTA	1P
Mon.	Oct. 8	New York	6P
Sun.	Oct. 14	PITTSBURGH	1P
Sun.	Oct. 21	Houston	1P
Sun.	Oct. 28	Los Angeles	1P
Sun.	Nov. 4	CINCINNATI	1P
Sun.	Nov. 11	Cleveland	10A
Sun.	Nov. 18	TAMPA BAY	1P
Sun.	Nov. 25	New Orleans	1P
Sun.	Dec. 2	Atlanta	10A
Sat.	Dec. 8	MINNESOTA	1P
Fri.	Dec. 14	LOS ANGELES	6P

CAPS = Home Game

All times Pacific Standard



80 proof. The Jos. Garneau Co., Louisville, Ky. © 1984

Personal: Bushmills drinker, tired of petty abuse in local bar, seeks other Bushmills drinkers.

It happens all the time: order a Bushmills on the rocks and the fellow next to you says: "Bushmills? Never heard of it."

Don't let his provincialism bother you.

Remember that few people know Bushmills is imported whiskey from the world's oldest distillery. And that it's distilled 3 times for an uncommonly smooth taste.

So be of good cheer. Just think: if everybody knew about Bushmills, there wouldn't be enough to go around.

BUSHMILLS

THE OLD BUSHMILLS DISTILLERY CO. LTD. 1608

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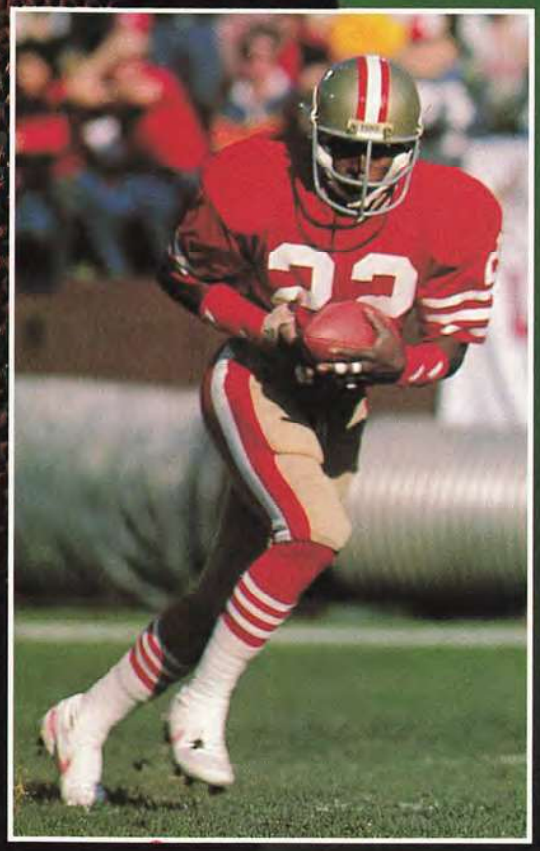

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DON HEINRICH

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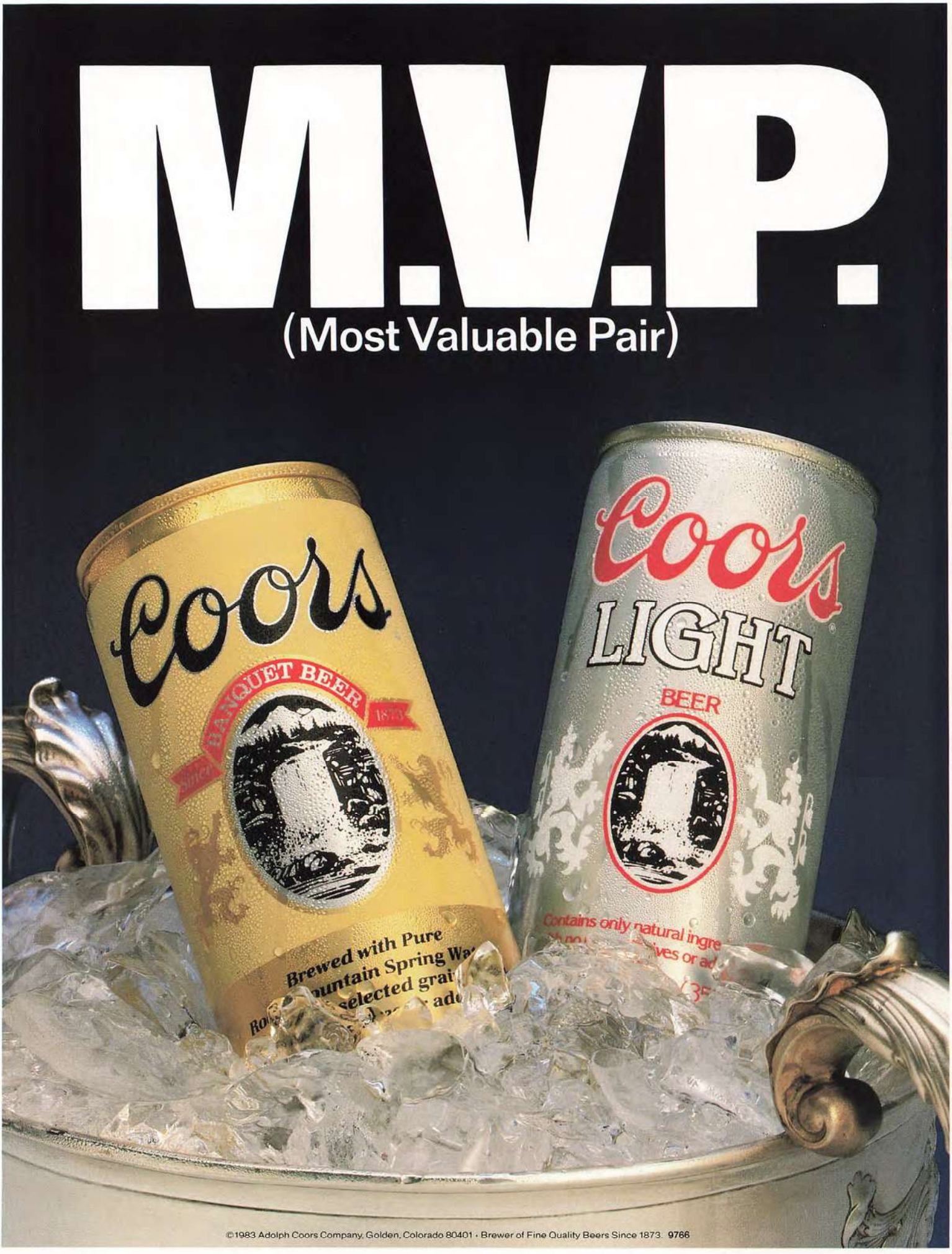
(Most Valuable Pair)



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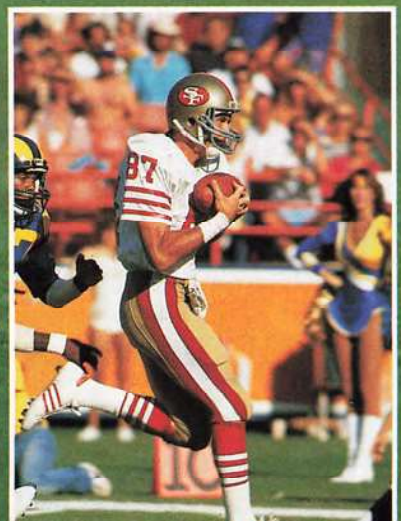
THE OFFENSE

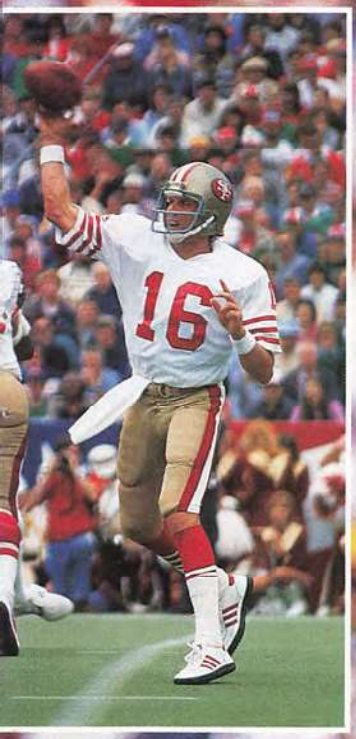
87 DWIGHT CLARK WIDE RECEIVER

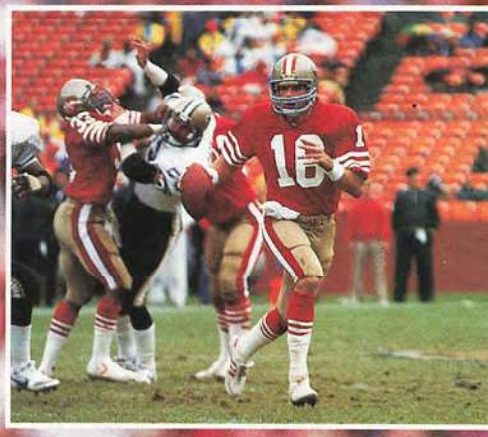
6'4" • 210 lbs. • b. 1/8/57 • Clemson • yr. 6

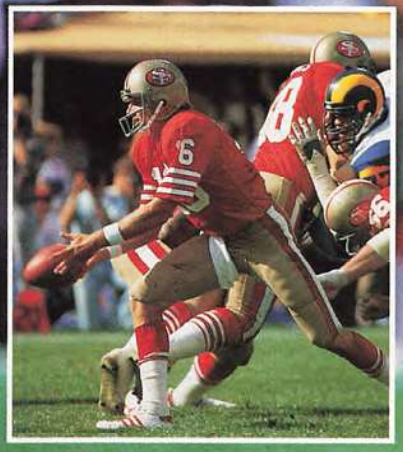


16 JOE MONTANA QUARTERBACK

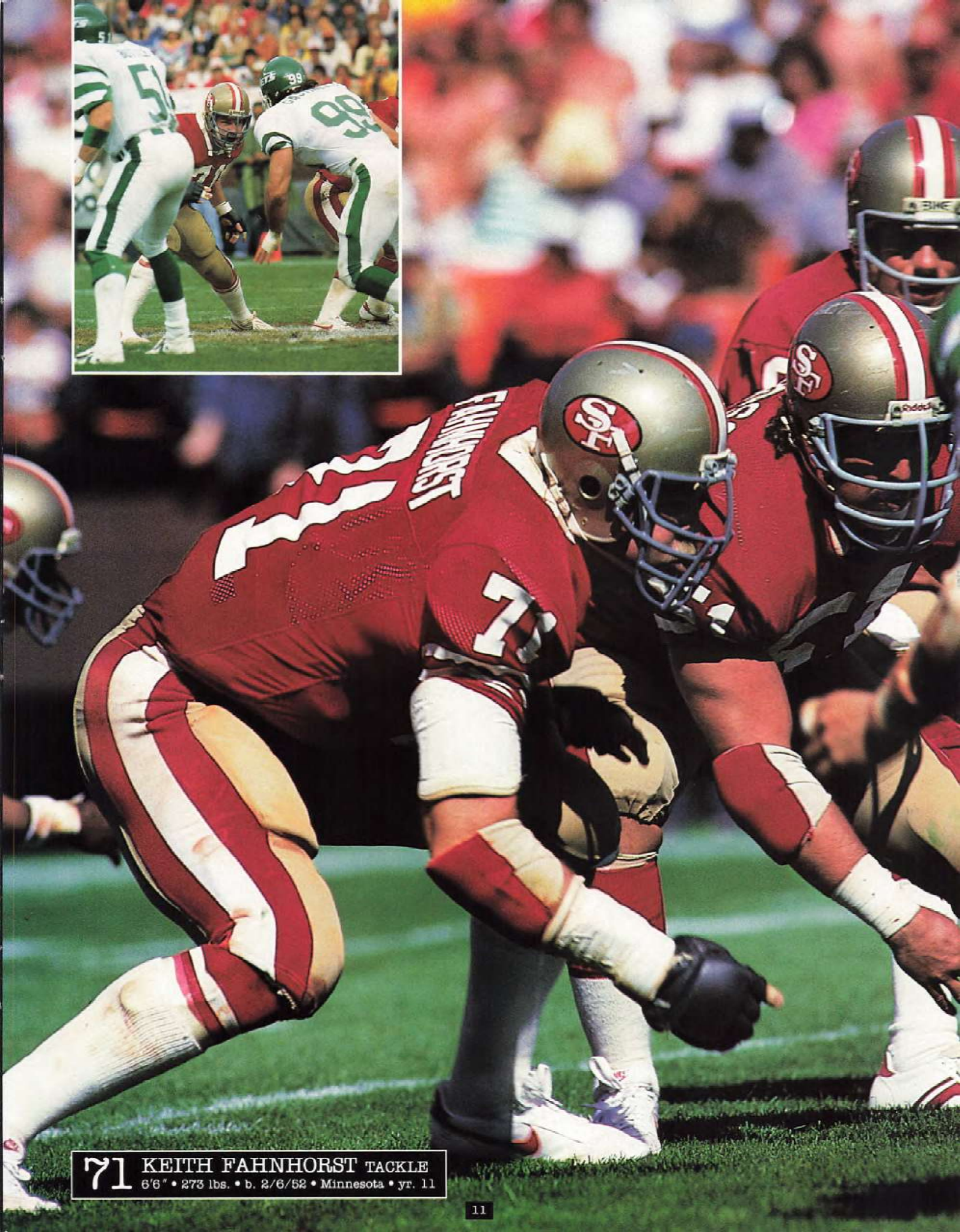
6'2" • 195 lbs. • b. 6/11/56 • Notre Dame • yr. 6







51 RANDY CROSS GUARD
6'3" • 265 lbs. • b. 4/25/54 • UCLA • yr. 9



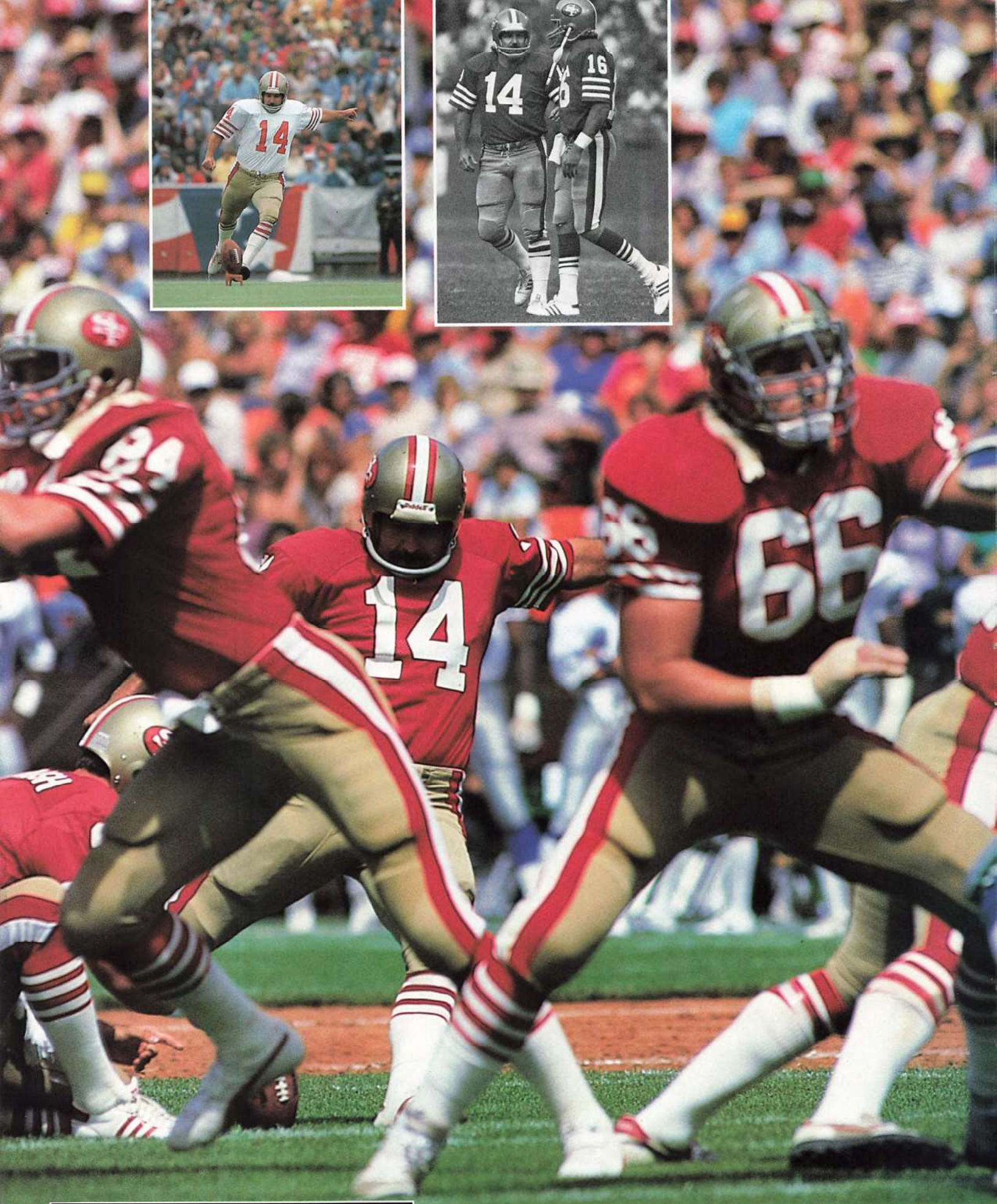
71 KEITH FAHNHORST TACKLE
6'6" • 273 lbs. • b. 2/6/52 • Minnesota • yr. 11

88 FREDDIE SOLOMON WIDE RECEIVER

5'11" • 188 lbs. • b. 1/11/53 • Tampa • yr. 10

26 WENDELL TYLER RUNNING BACK

5'10" • 200 lbs. • b. 5/20/55 • UCLA • yr. 12



14 RAY WERSCHING KICKER
5'11" • 210 lbs. • b. 8/21/50 • UCB • yr. 12

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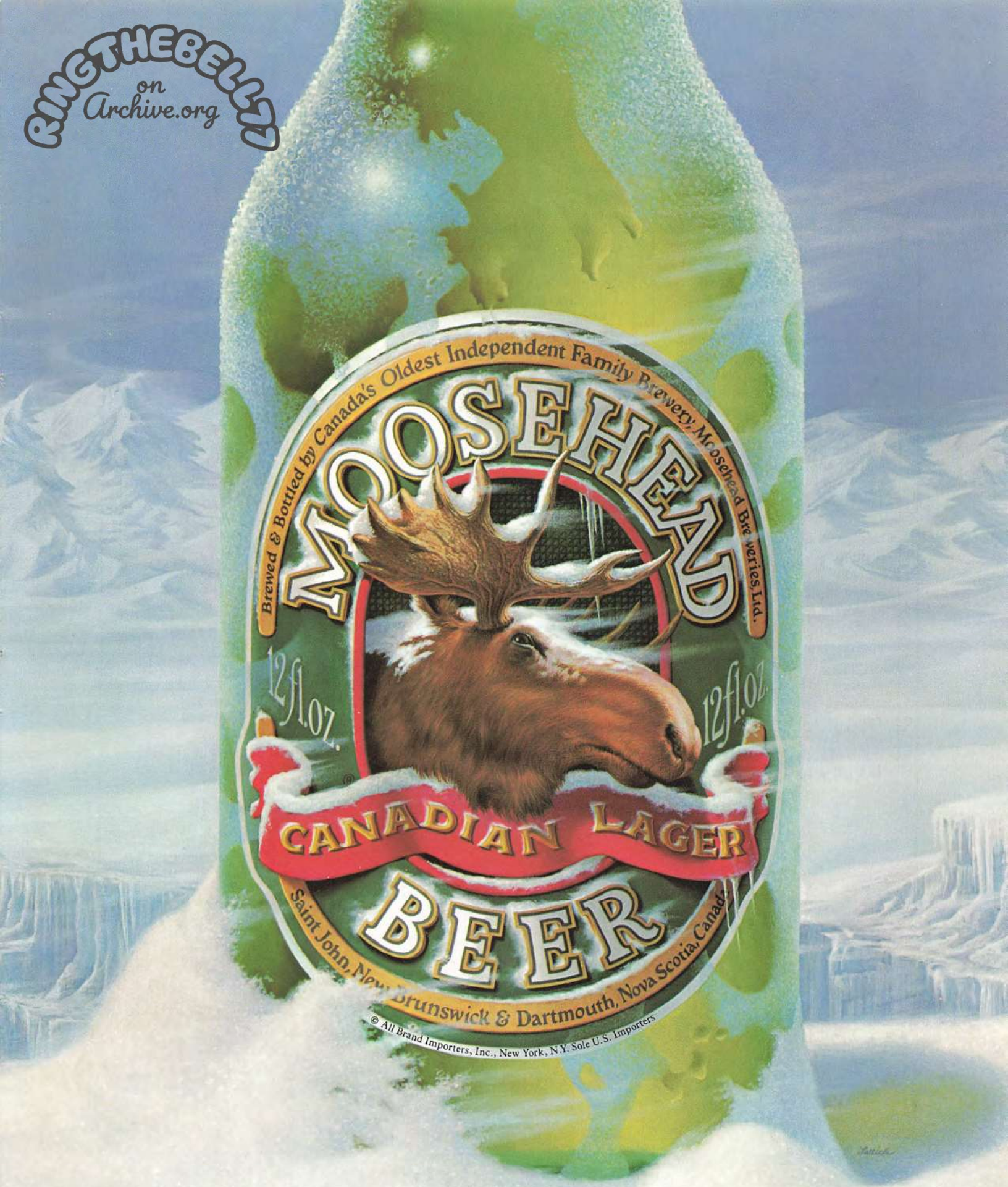
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Stands head and antlers above the rest.

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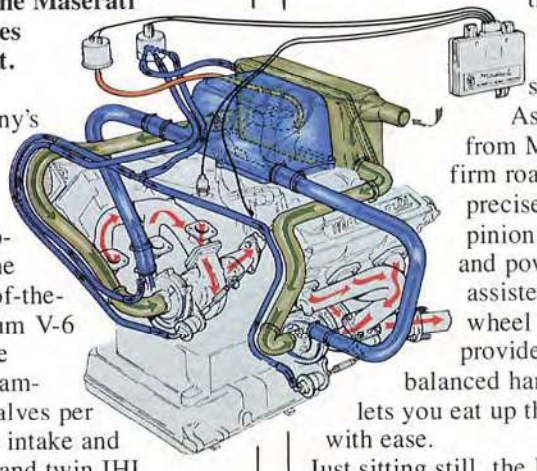
"the Maserati legend continues..."

In the automobile industry, the term "legend" has been overused. It should represent achievements heralded over time as benchmarks of the industry. Unfortunately, it's been wasted on many not so legendary automobiles. To justify the title, a manufacturer must continue to produce products that live up to their heritage. The Maserati Biturbo does exactly that.



The company's racing heritage is unmistakeably apparent in the new state-of-the-art aluminum V-6 engine. The overhead camshafts, 3 valves per cylinder (2 intake and 1 exhaust) and twin IHI turbochargers (for greatly reduced turbo lag), produce a 185 HP surge of raw power that accelerates the Biturbo from 0 to 60 mph in 6.8 seconds (Car and Driver).

Complimenting this is Maserati's Automatic Boost Control (MABC) which uses a micro chip computer to adjust turbo boost and maintain optimum performance and economy.

All this power is handled with ease by the Biturbo's 5-speed ZF transmission and fully independent suspension.

As expected from Maserati, firm road-holding, precise rack and pinion steering and power-assisted, four-wheel disc brakes provide superbly balanced handling that lets you eat up the miles with ease.

Just sitting still, the Biturbo makes your pulse quicken. Its bold, sleek lines reflect Maserati's tradition of beautiful automobiles, and inside, the soft leather seat facings and luxurious appointments are only a camouflage for an interior designed purposefully for the real job of driving.

A complete luxury and performance car, yet the Biturbo was designed and built to be driven daily. It can dependably handle your most mundane driving needs and that claim is backed by a 24 month, 24,000 mile limited warranty.

The new Maserati Biturbo is quite simply the most exciting 4-passenger sports sedan available today. "The Biturbo adds pavement-wrinkling performance and additional flash to the sport-sedan equation." (Playboy)

Would you expect anything less from a real legend?

Visit your nearest dealer. Drive yourself wild!

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la tradizione italiana

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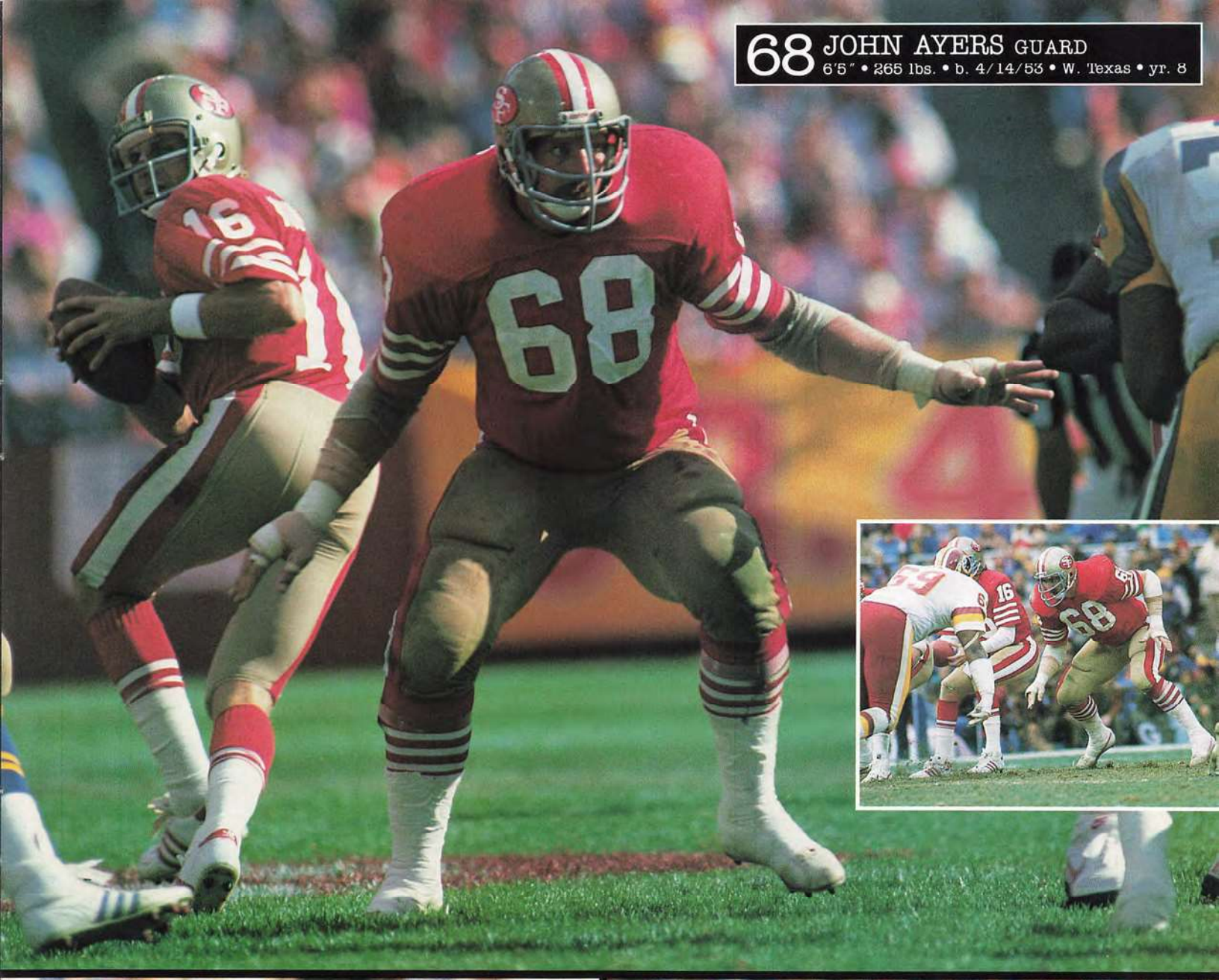
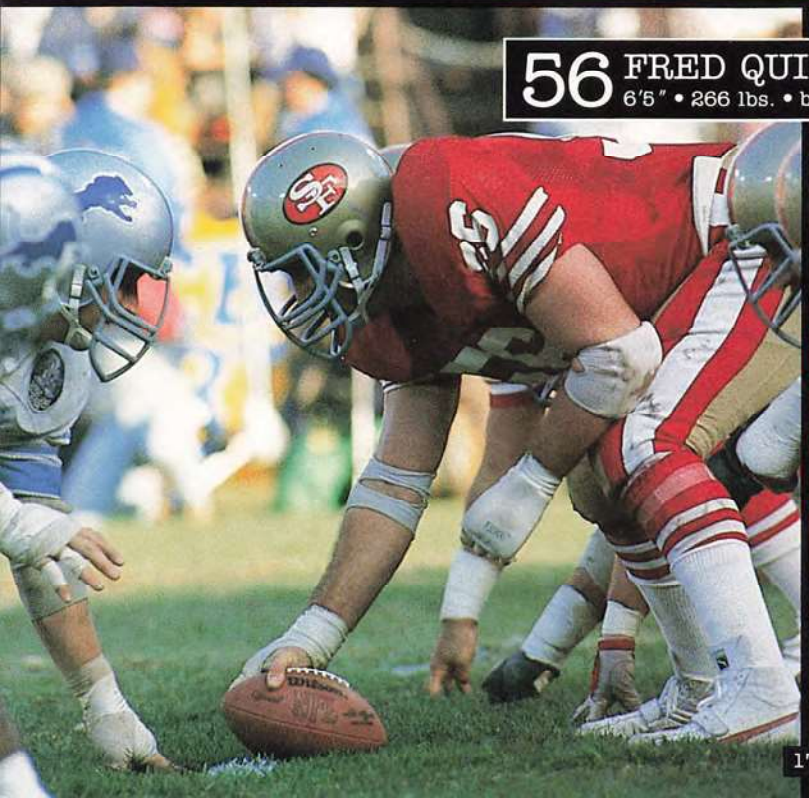


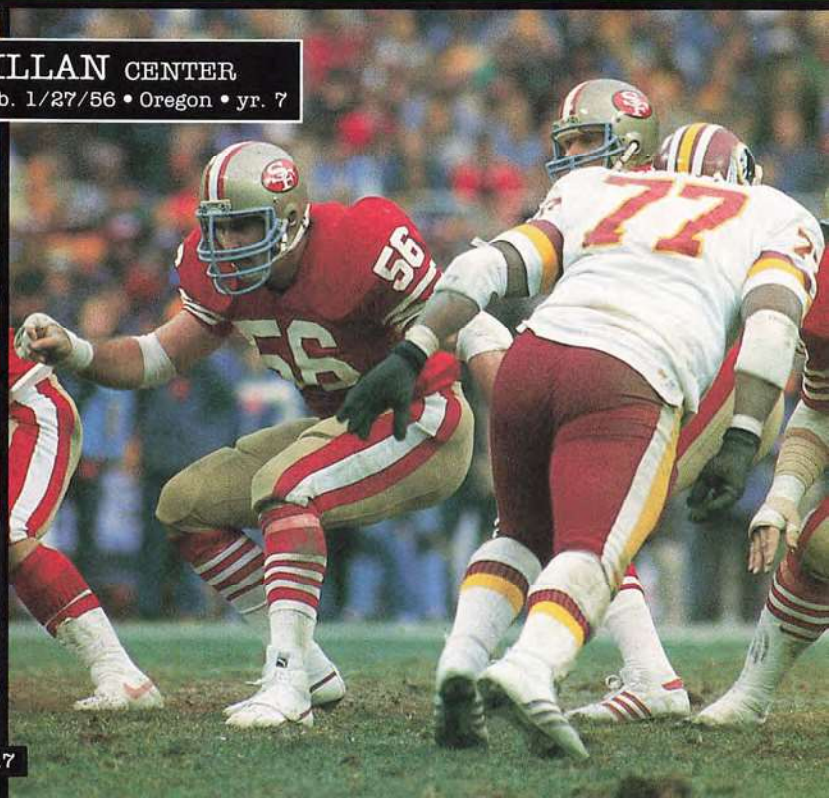
68 JOHN AYERS GUARD

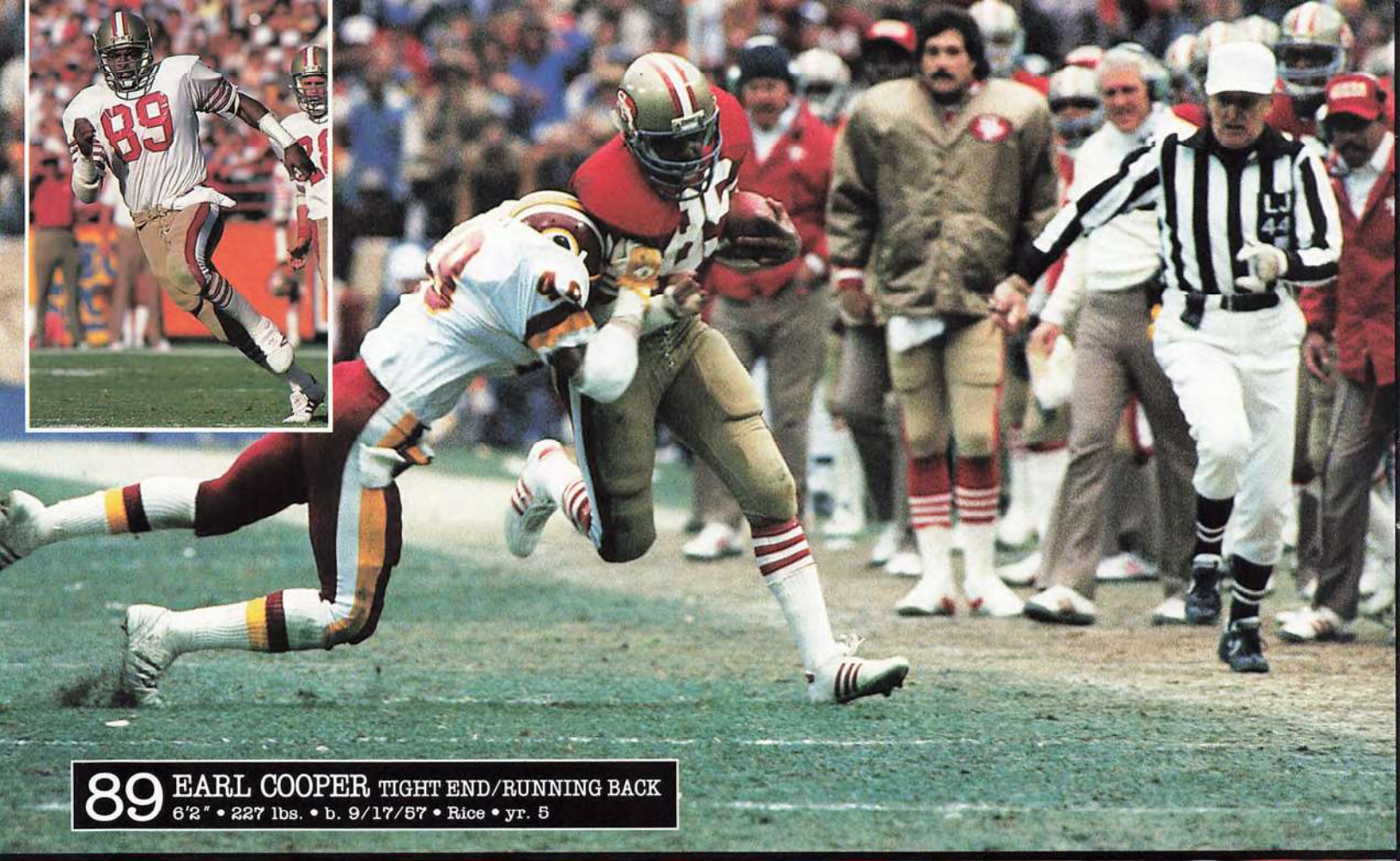
6'5" • 265 lbs. • b. 4/14/53 • W. Texas • yr. 8



56 FRED QUILLAN CENTER

6'5" • 266 lbs. • b. 1/27/56 • Oregon • yr. 7



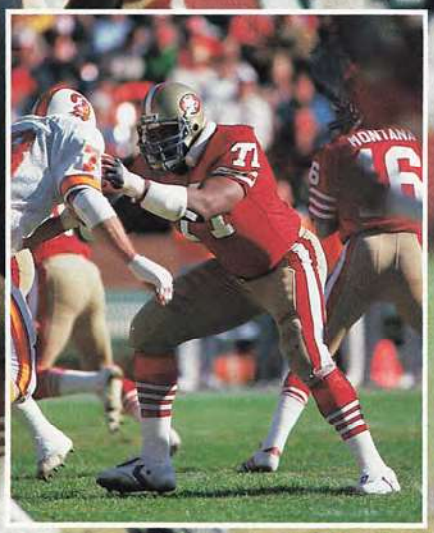


89 EARL COOPER TIGHT END/RUNNING BACK
6'2" • 227 lbs. • b. 9/17/57 • Rice • yr. 5

33 ROGER CRAIG FULLBACK
6'0" • 222 lbs. • b. 7/10/60 • Nebraska • yr. 2

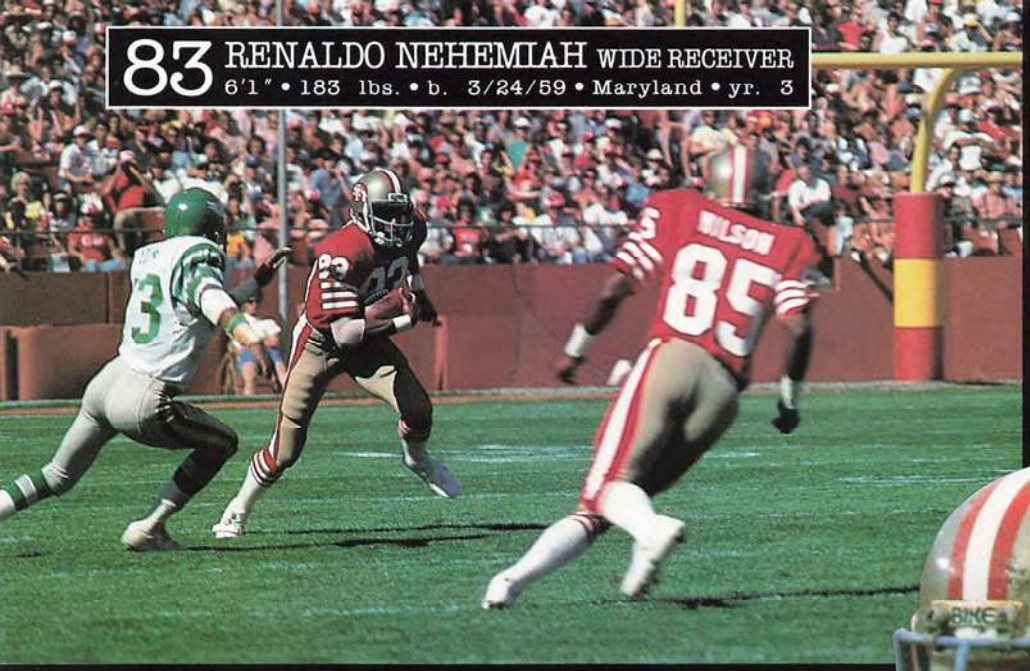
77 WILLIAM "BUBBA" PARIS TACKLE

6'6" • 295 lbs. • b. 10/6/60 • Michigan • yr. 2



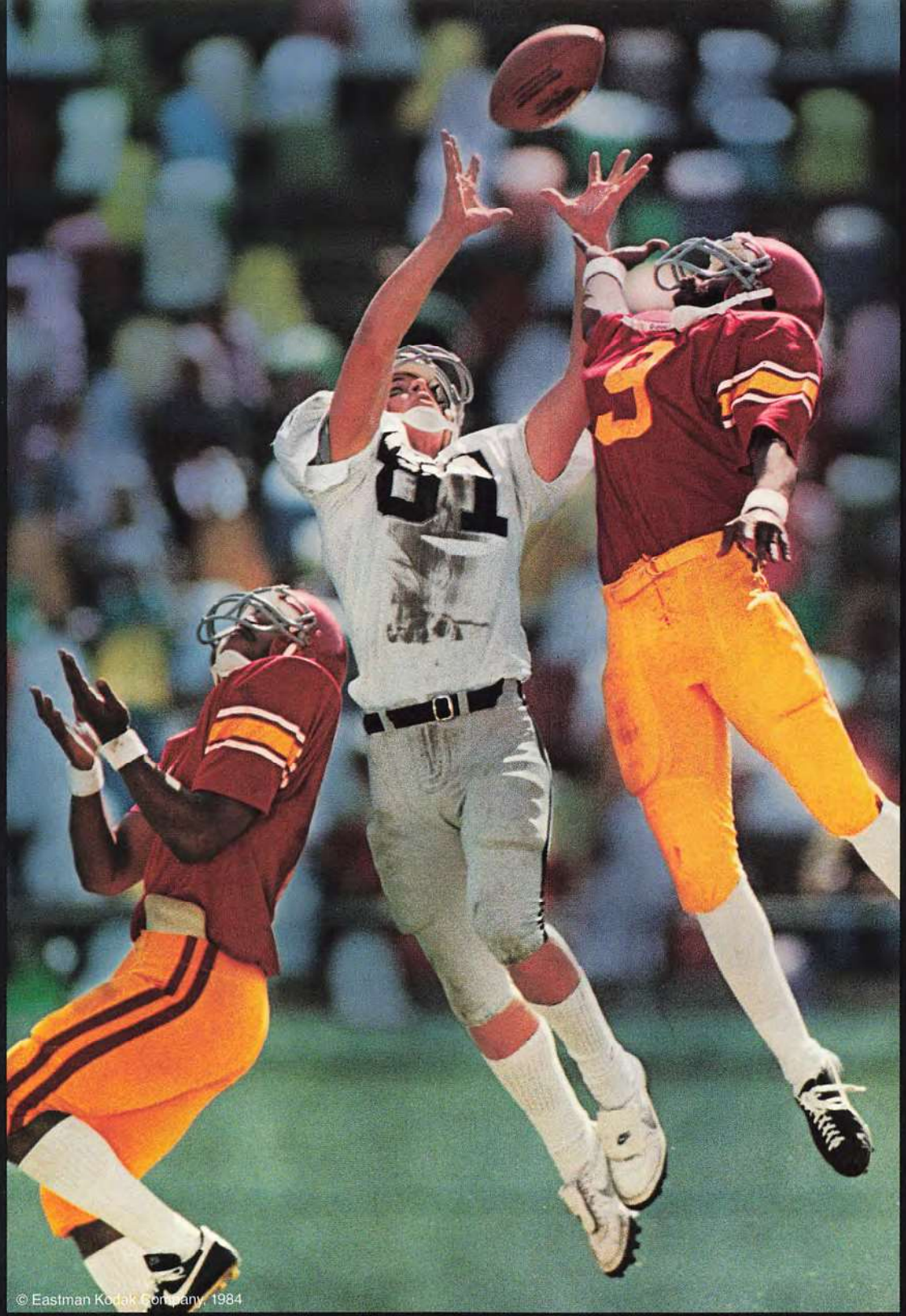
81 RUSS FRANCIS TIGHT END

6'6" • 242 lbs. • b. 4/3/53 • Oregon • yr. 9



83 RENALDO NEHEMIAH WIDE RECEIVER
6'1" • 183 lbs. • b. 3/24/59 • Maryland • yr. 3

30 BILL RING RUNNING BACK
5'10" • 205 lbs. • b. 12/13/56 • BYU • yr. 4



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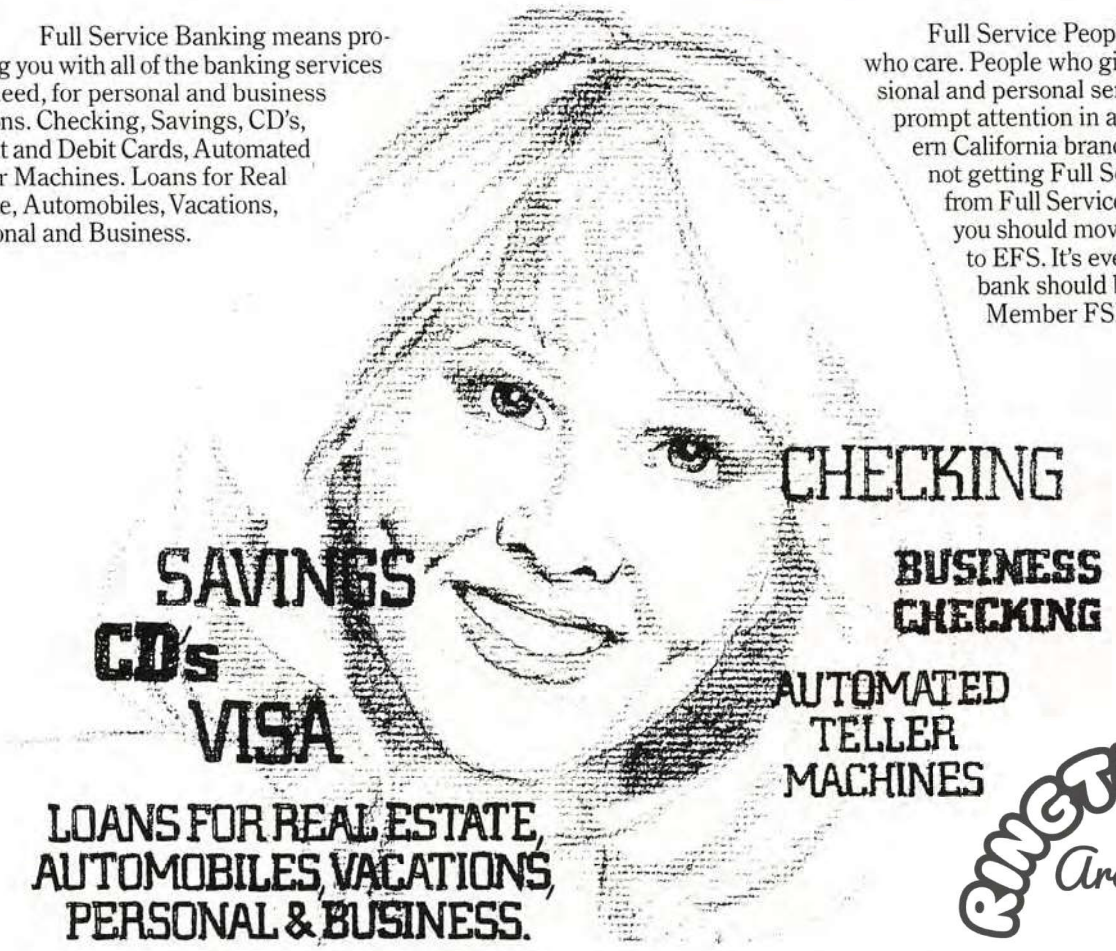

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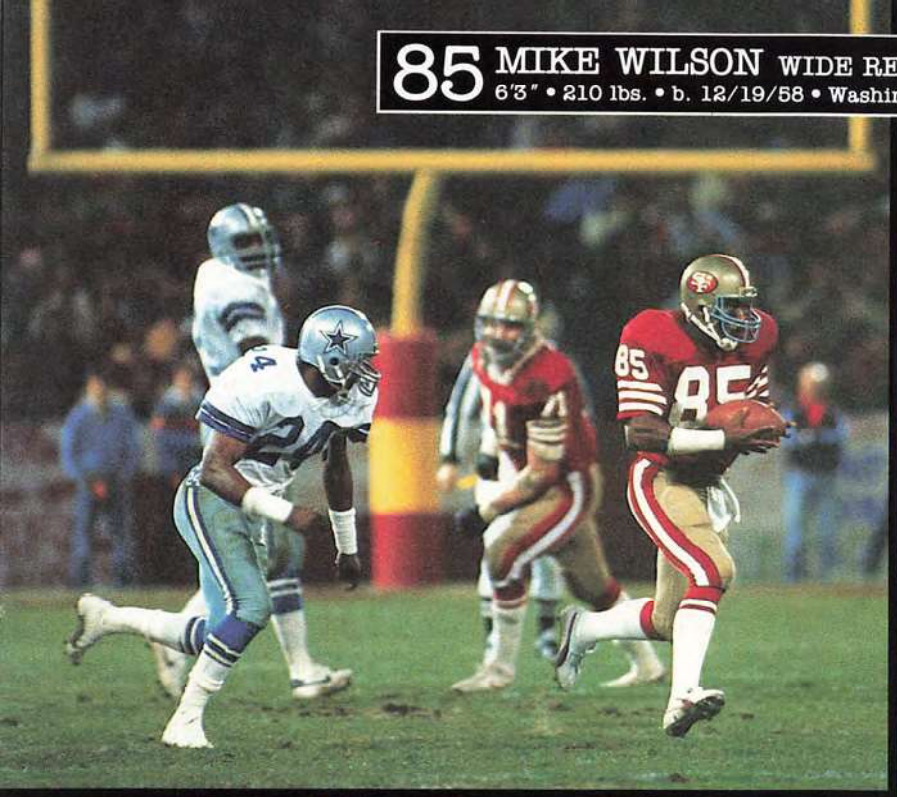
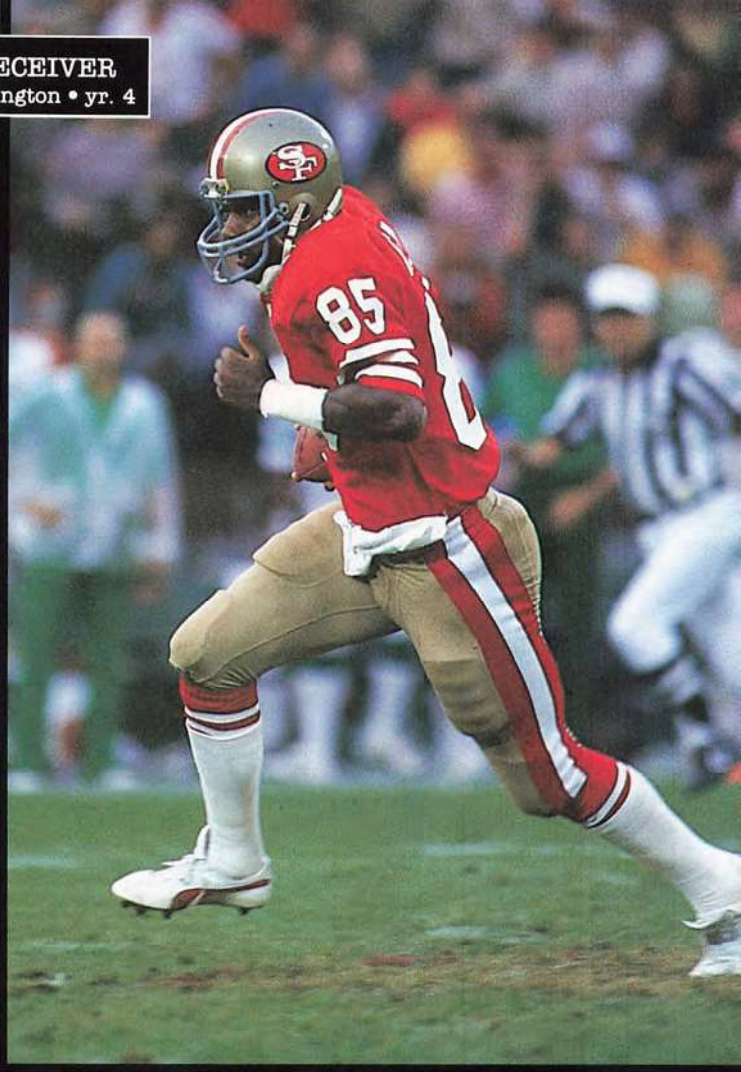
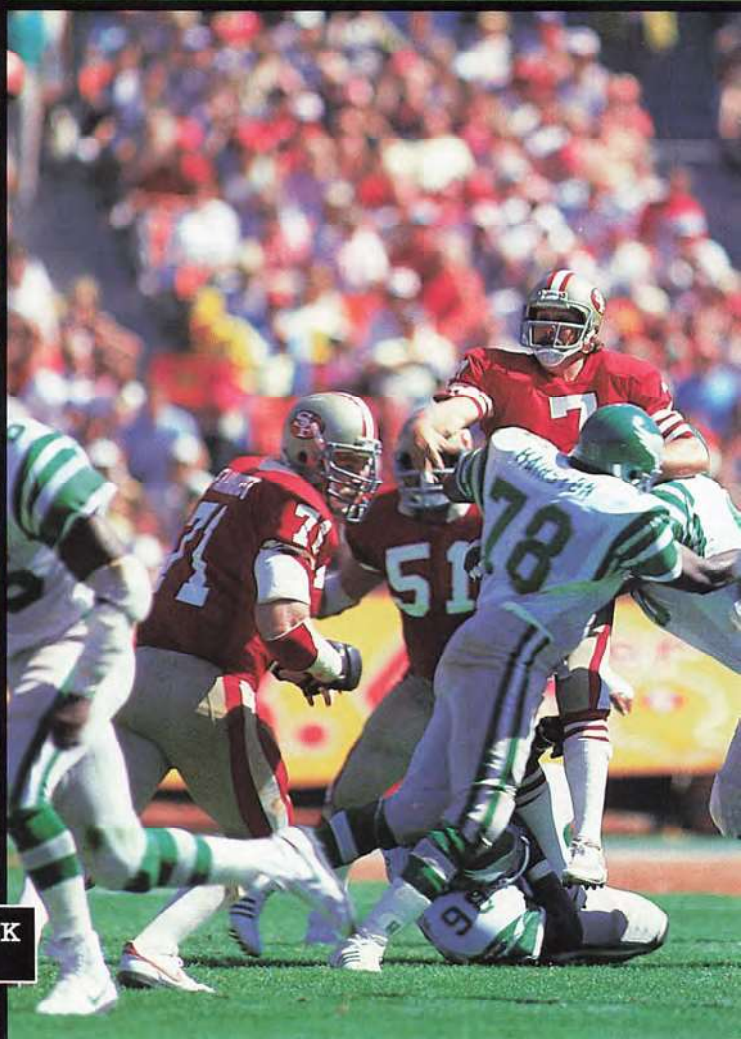
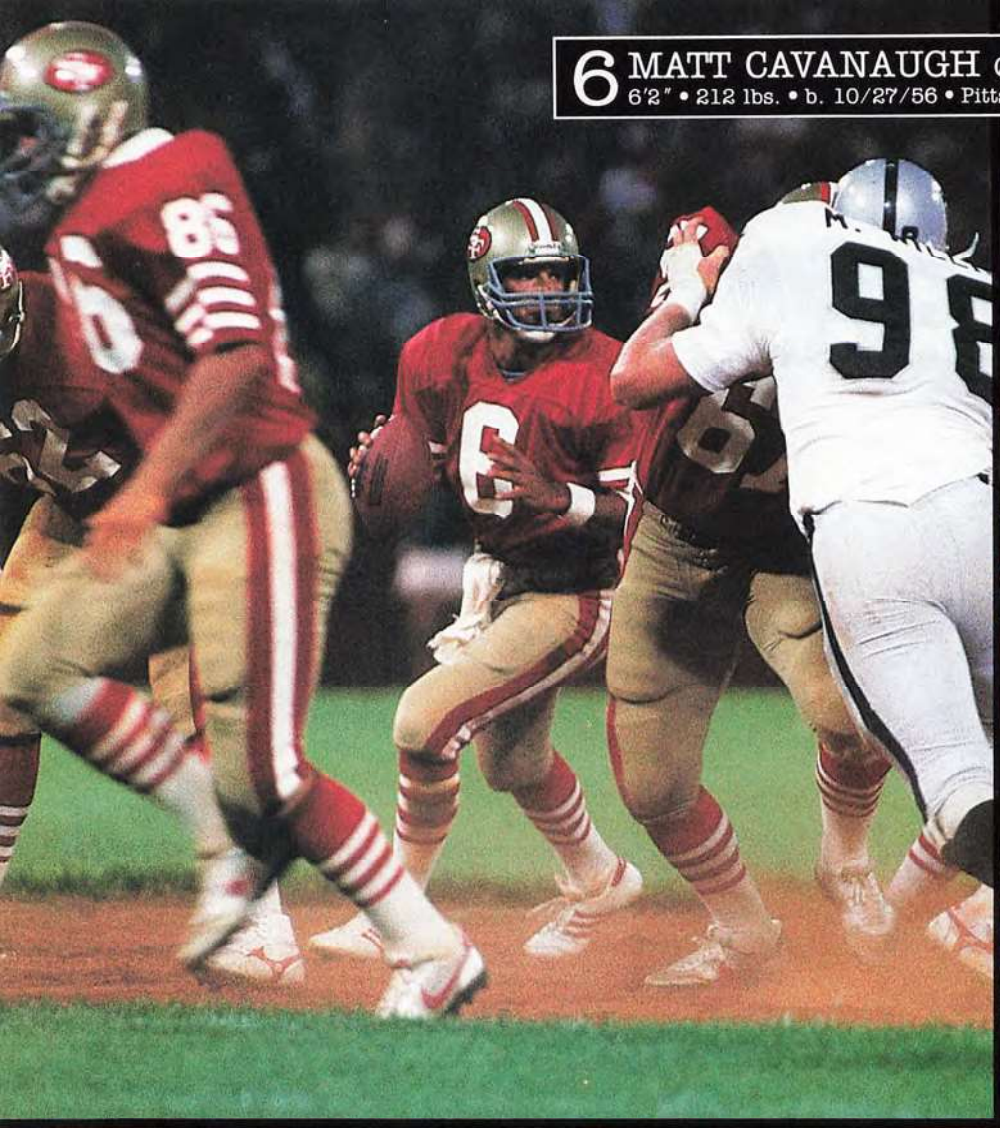


85 MIKE WILSON WIDE RECEIVER
6'3" • 210 lbs. • b. 12/19/58 • Washington • yr. 4



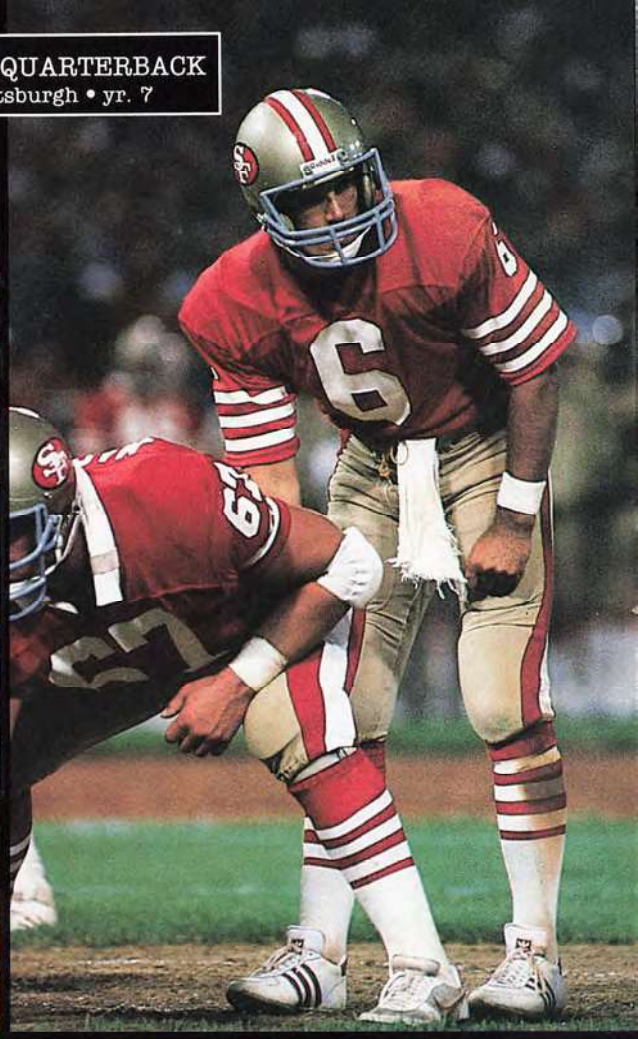


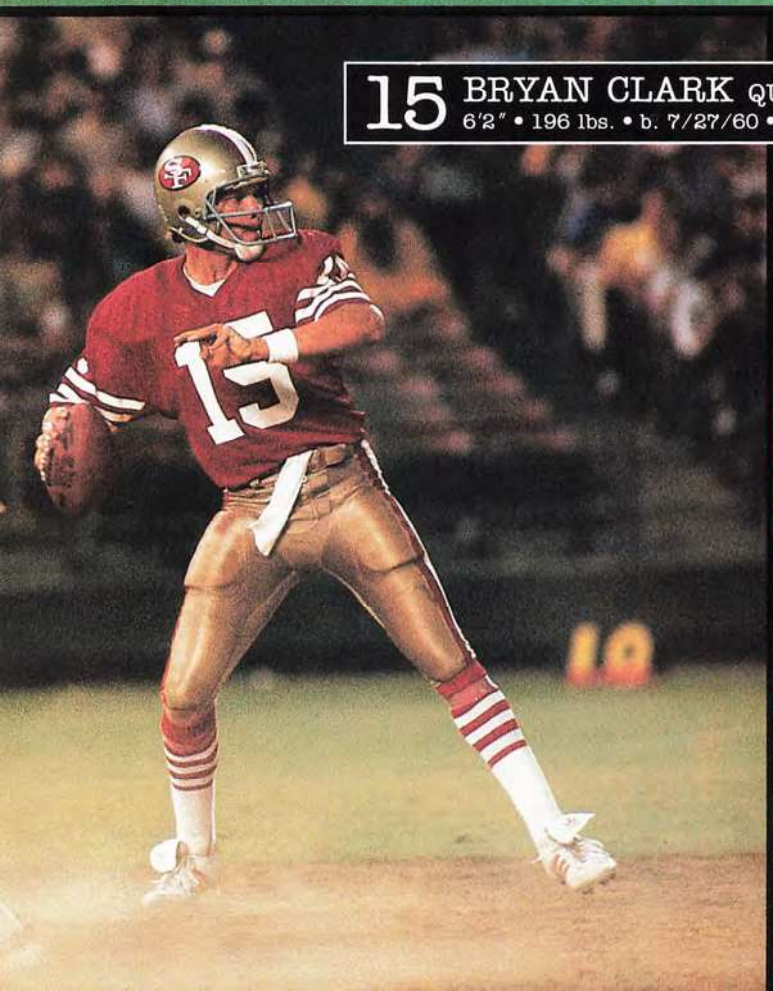
7 GUY BENJAMIN QUARTERBACK
6'3" • 210 lbs. • b. 6/27/55 • Stanford • yr. 7



6 MATT CAVANAUGH QUARTERBACK

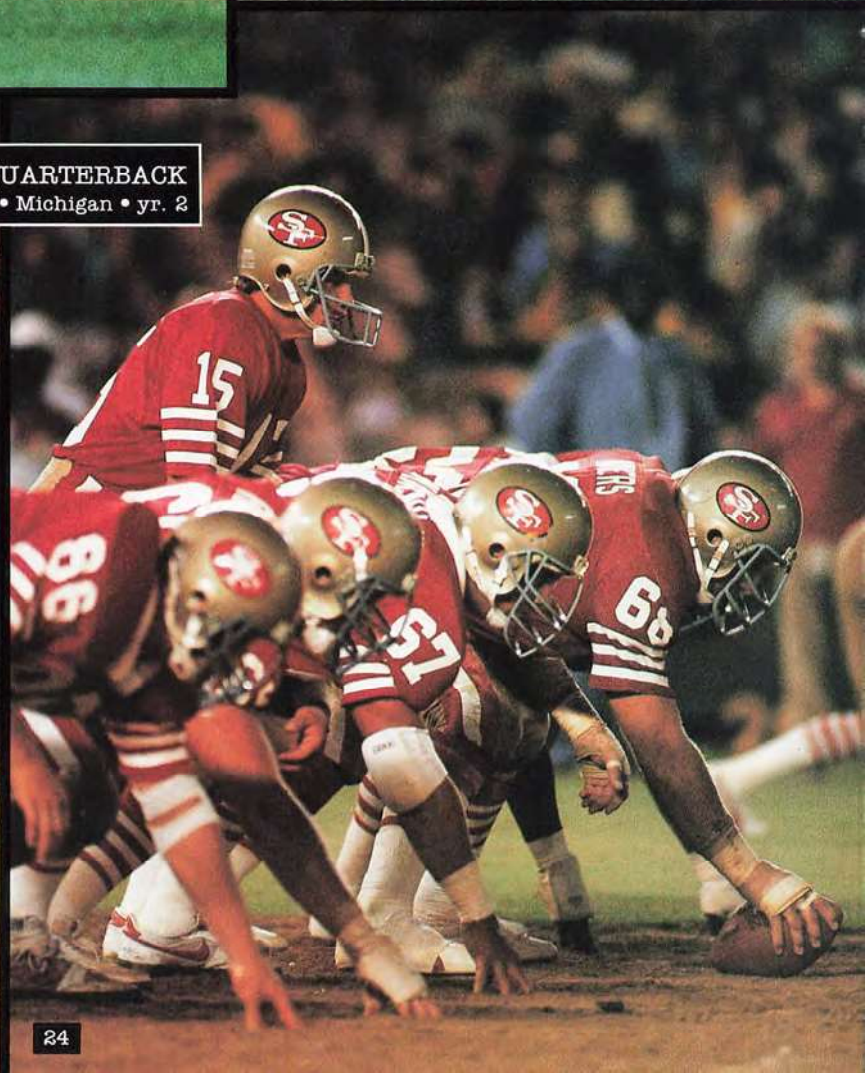
6'2" • 212 lbs. • b. 10/27/56 • Pittsburgh • yr. 7

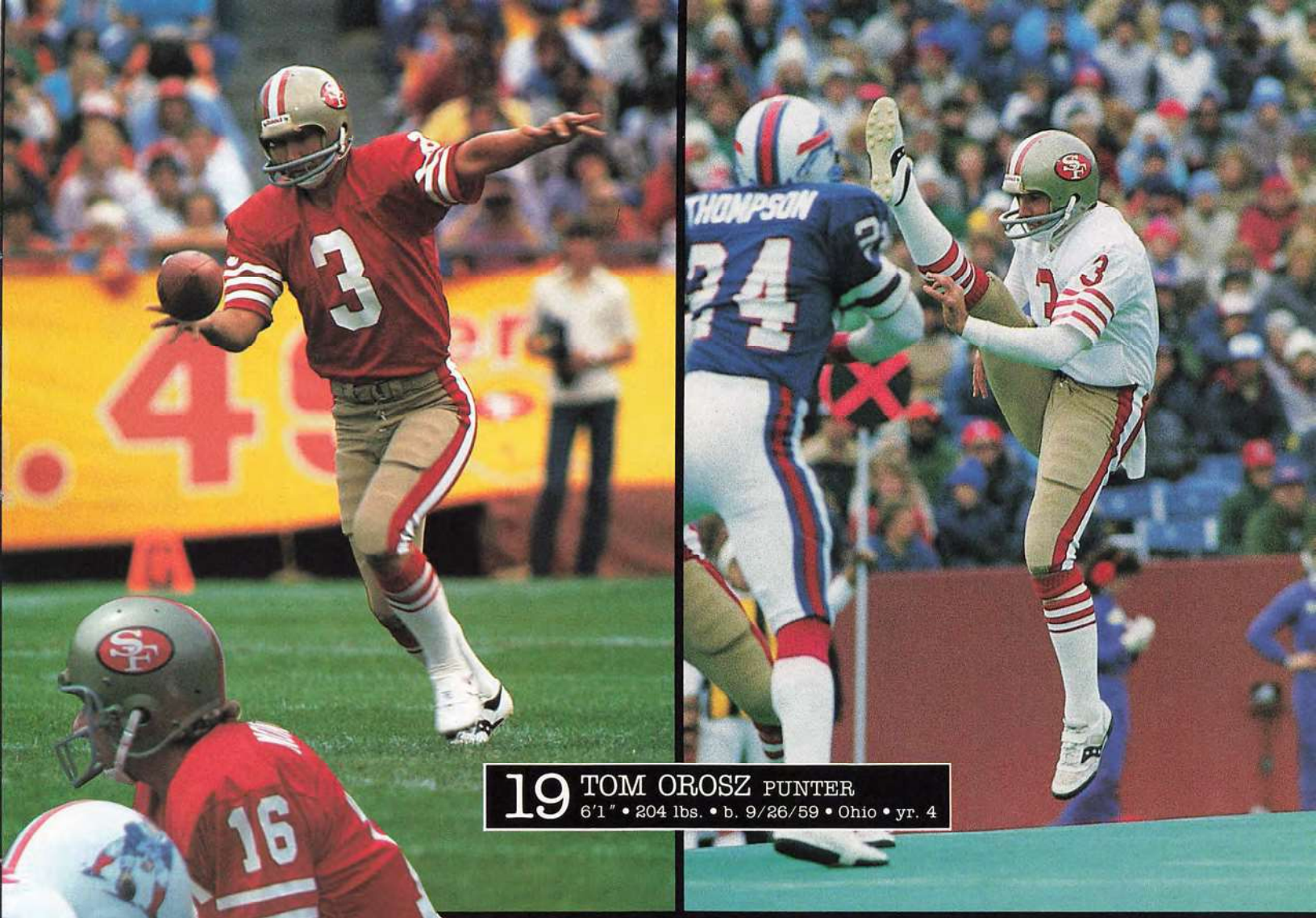




15 BRYAN CLARK QUARTERBACK

6'2" • 196 lbs. • b. 7/27/60 • Michigan • yr. 2





19 TOM OROSZ PUNTER
6'1" • 204 lbs. • b. 9/26/59 • Ohio • yr. 4

66 ALLAN KENNEDY TACKLE
6'7" • 275 lbs. • b. 1/8/58 • Washington • yr. 3

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Talk about a great starting line-up, and you're talking about us. The bread winners. Kilpatrick's White Bread. Roman Meal. Hillbilly. Hollywood. And Earth Bread.

There's just nothing around that can stand up to us when it comes to taste, texture or quality. So let's get acquainted after the game. You'll find our whole team waiting for you at your grocer's.

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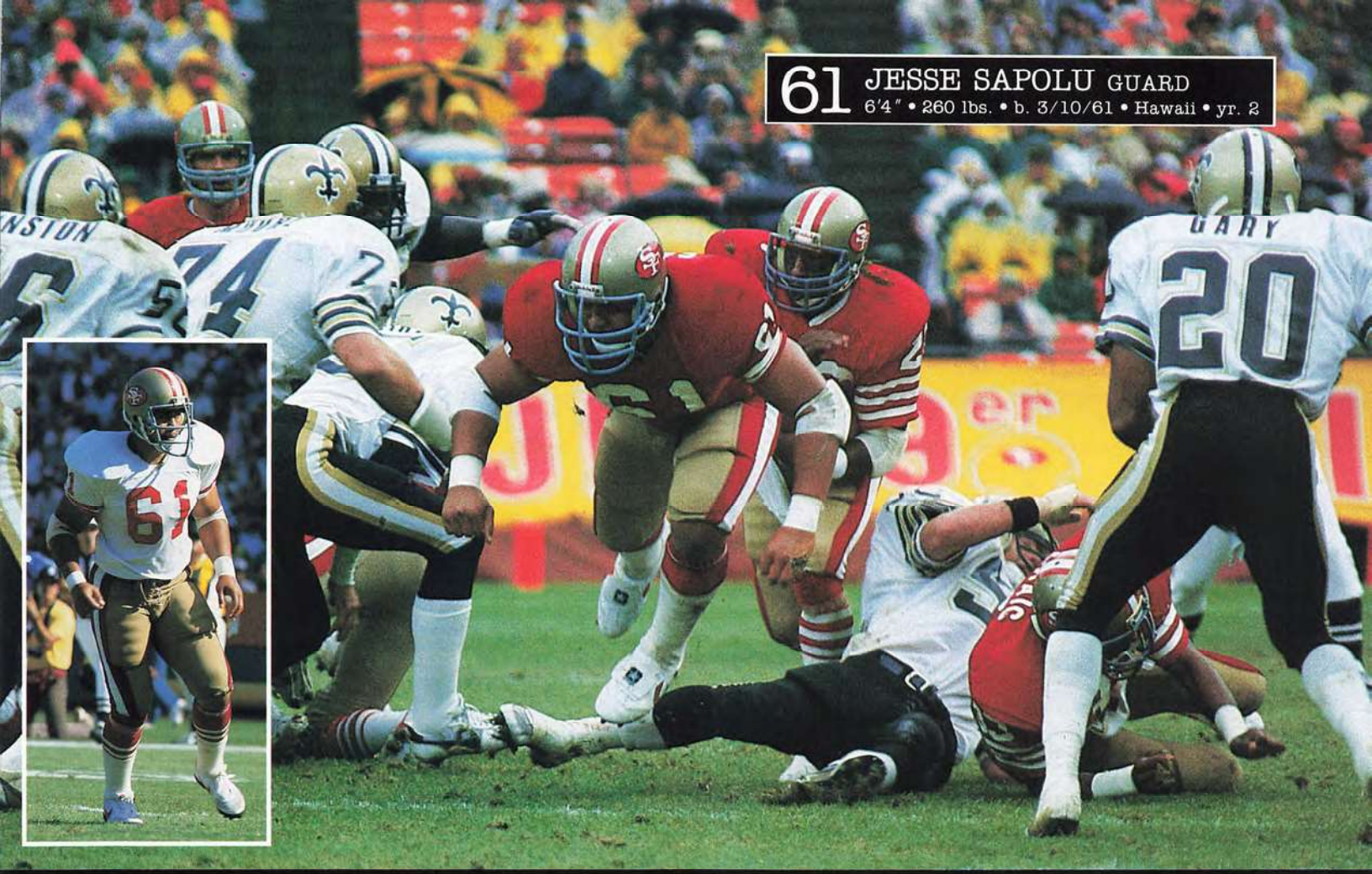
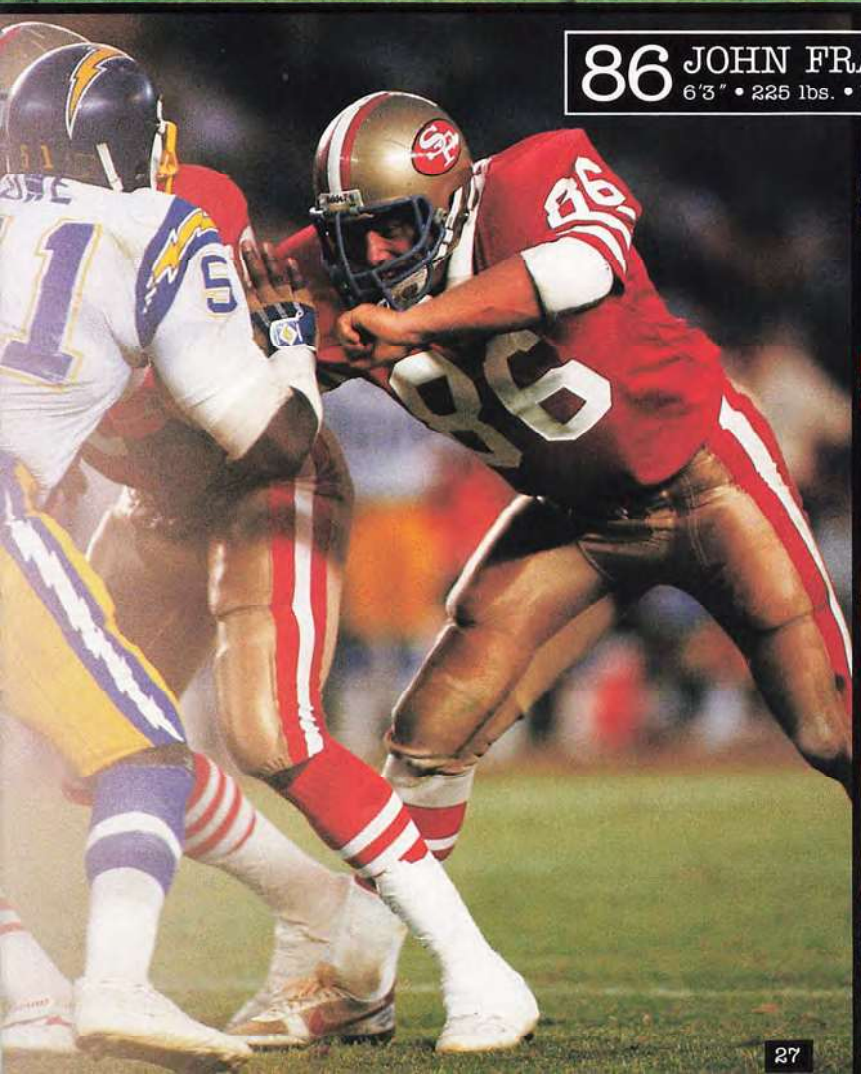


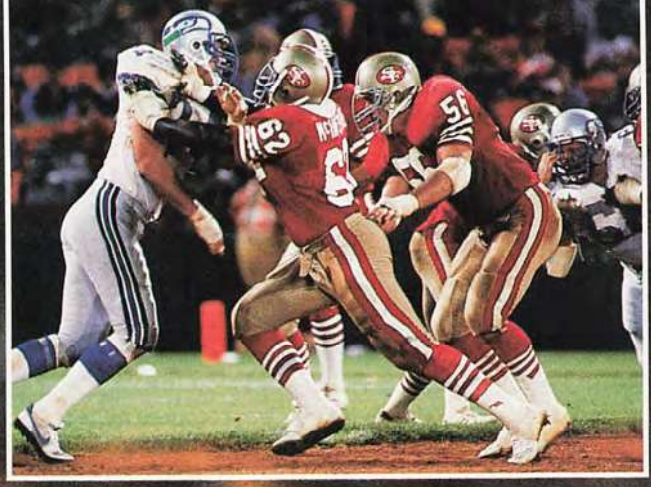
61 JESSE SAPOLU GUARD

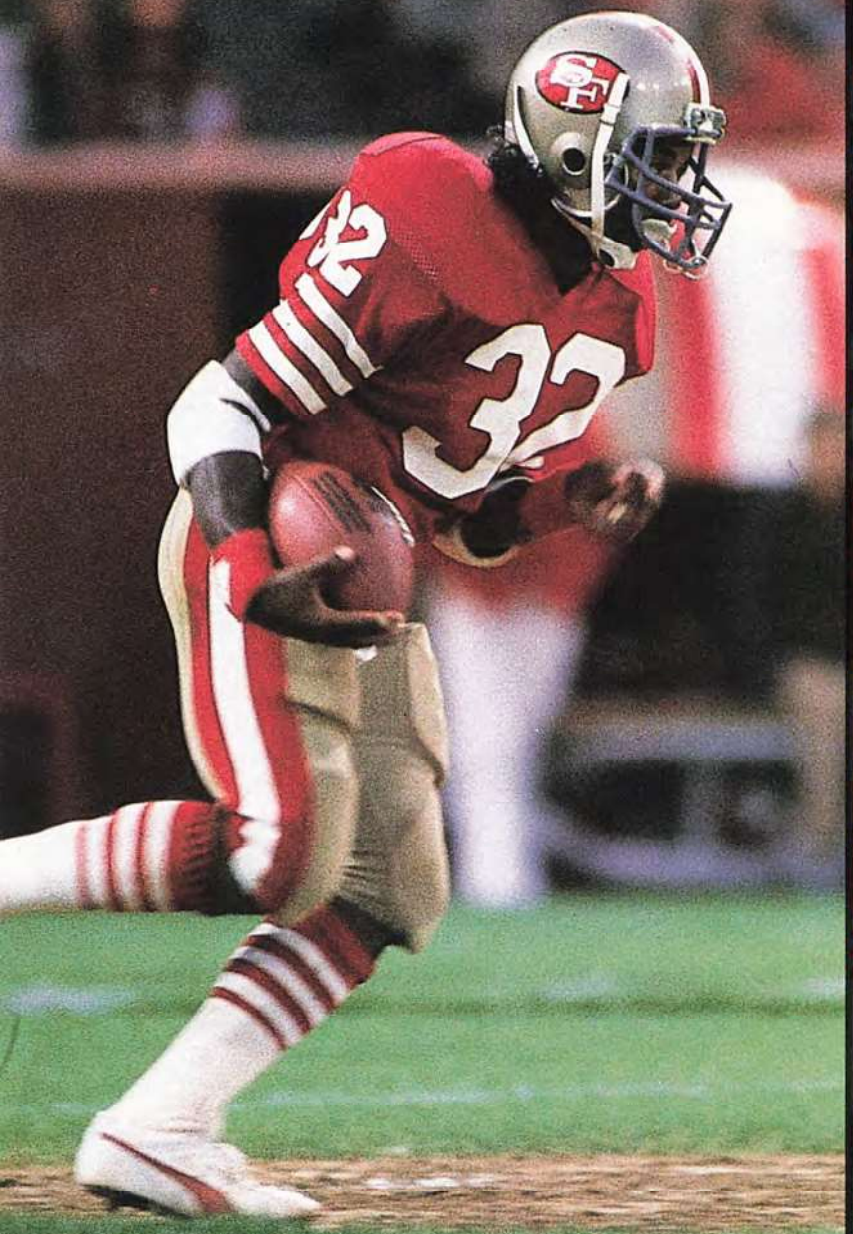
6'4" • 260 lbs. • b. 3/10/61 • Hawaii • yr. 2

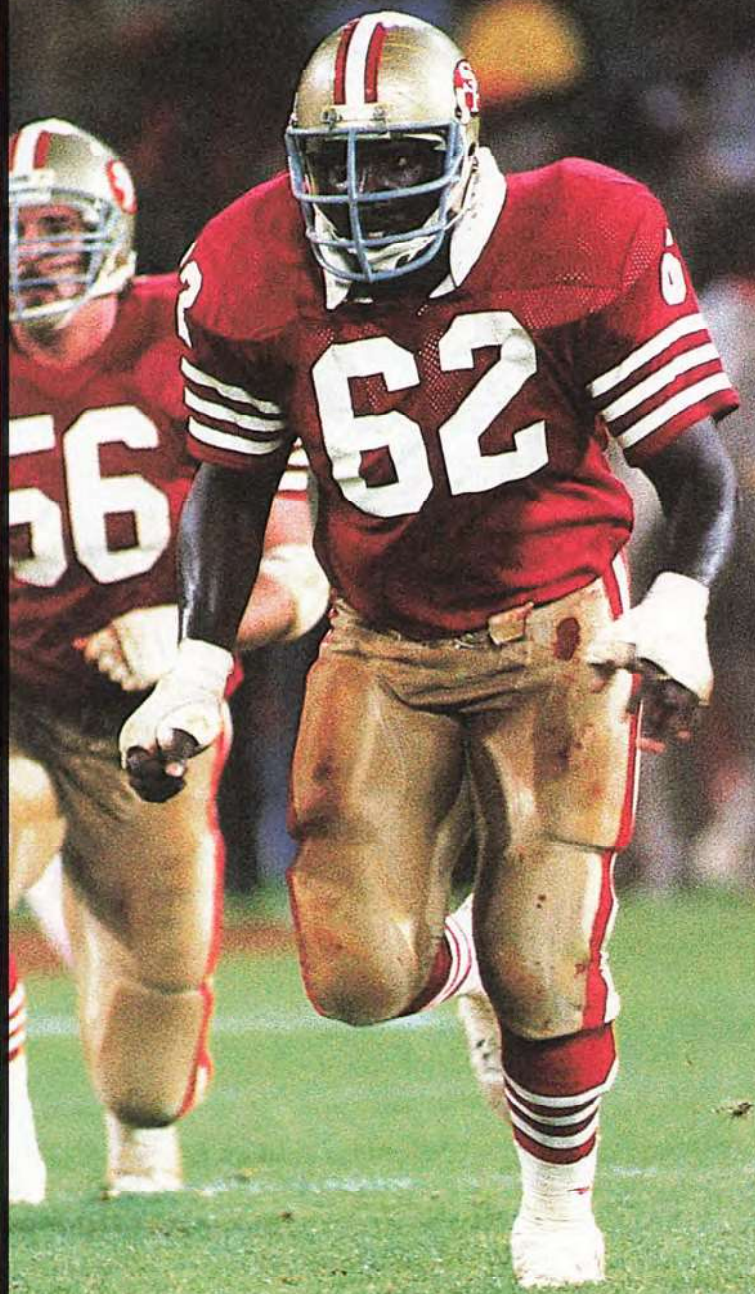
86 JOHN FRANK TIGHT END

6'3" • 225 lbs. • b. 4/17/62 • Ohio • yr. 1









32 CARL MONROE RUNNING BACK/KICK RETURNER
5'8" • 166 lbs. • b. 2/20/60 • Utah • yr. 2

62 GUY McINTYRE GUARD
6'3" • 271 lbs. • b. 2/17/61 • Georgia • yr. 1

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- American Airlines
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- CAAC
- China Airlines
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- Continental Airlines
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- Dashair
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- Eastern Airlines
- Frontier Horizon
- Hawaiian Air
- Horizon Air
- Japan Airlines
- LTU
- Lufthansa
- Mexicana Airlines
- Northwest Airlines
- Pacific Coast Airlines
- Pacific Interstate
- Pan American
- PSA
- Philippine Airlines
- Qantas
- Republic Airlines
- SFO Helicopter
- Singapore Airlines
- Southwest Airlines
- Sun Country Airlines
- Trans World Airlines
- United Airlines
- US Air
- West Air
- Western Airlines
- Wings West

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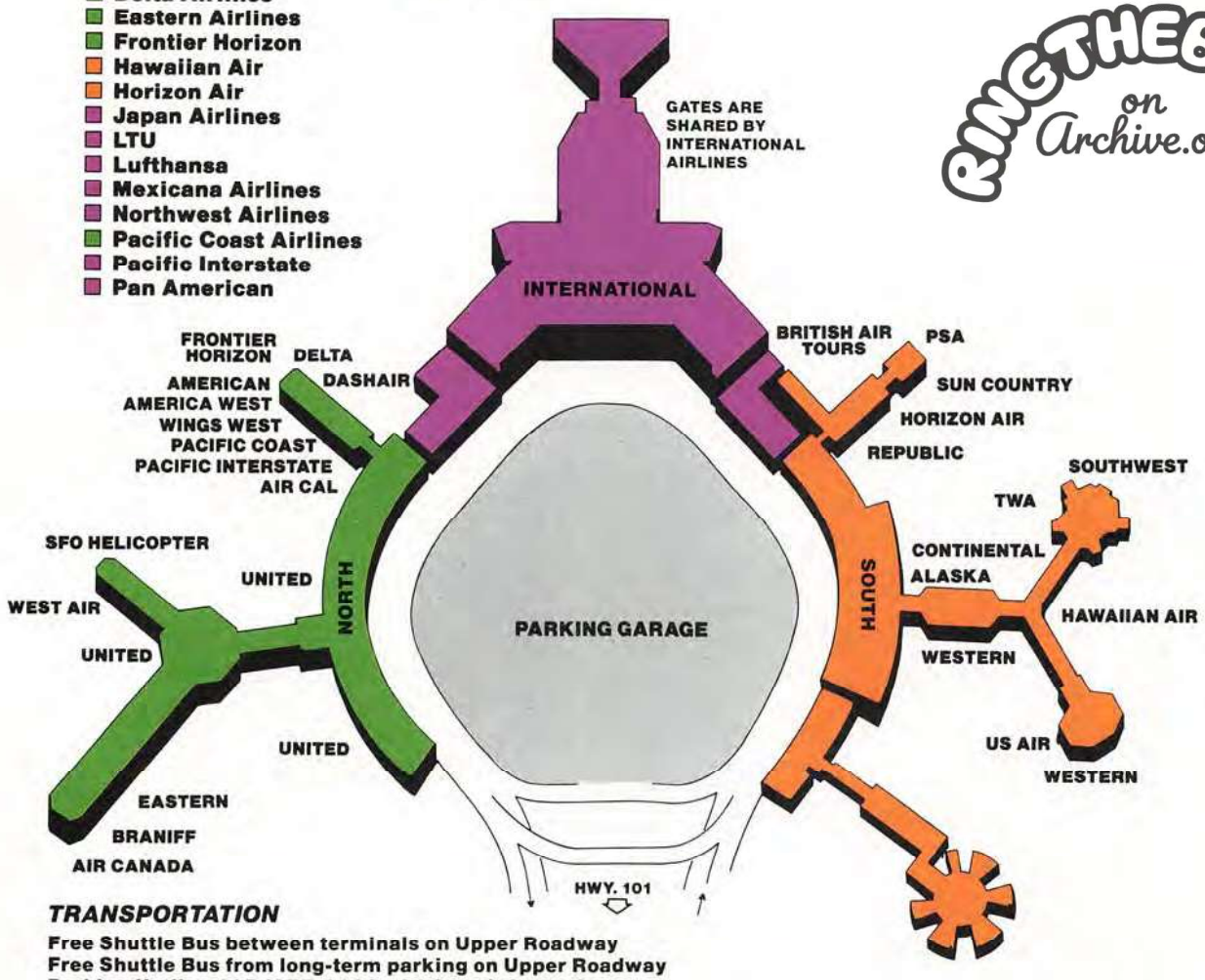

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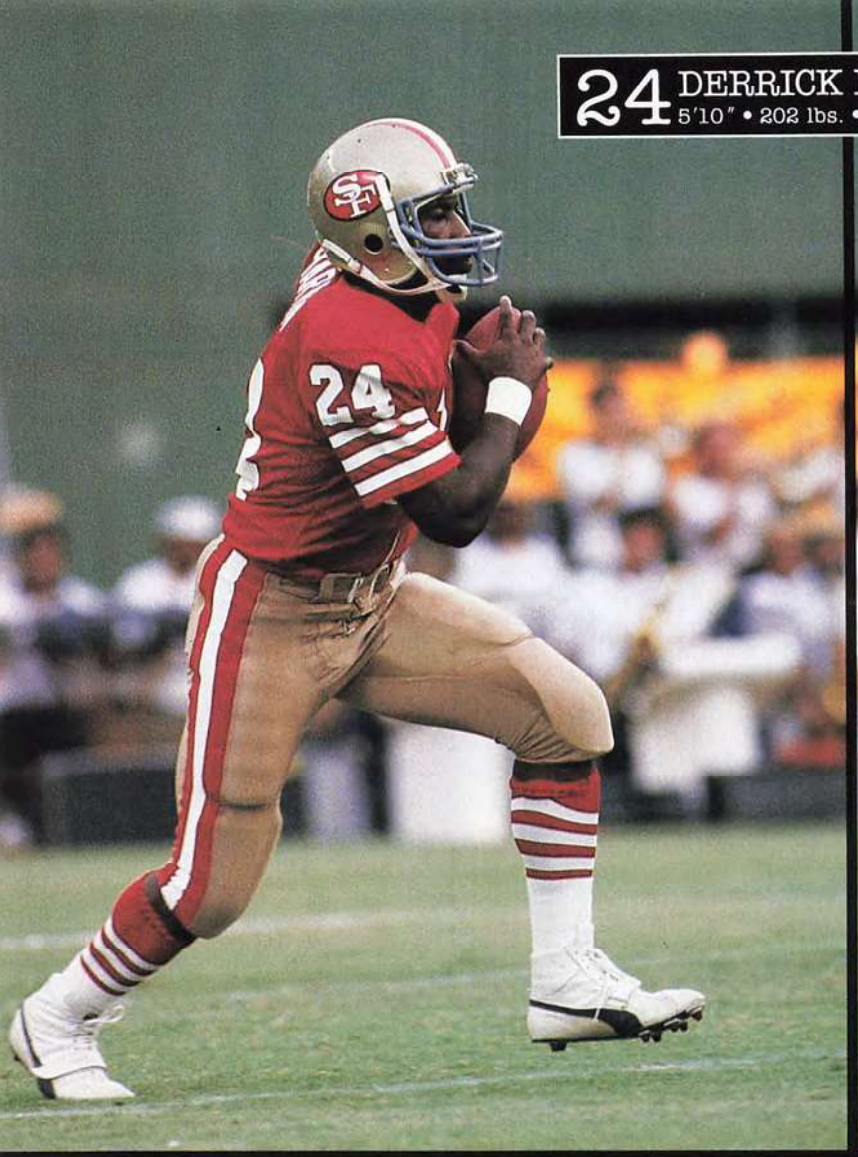
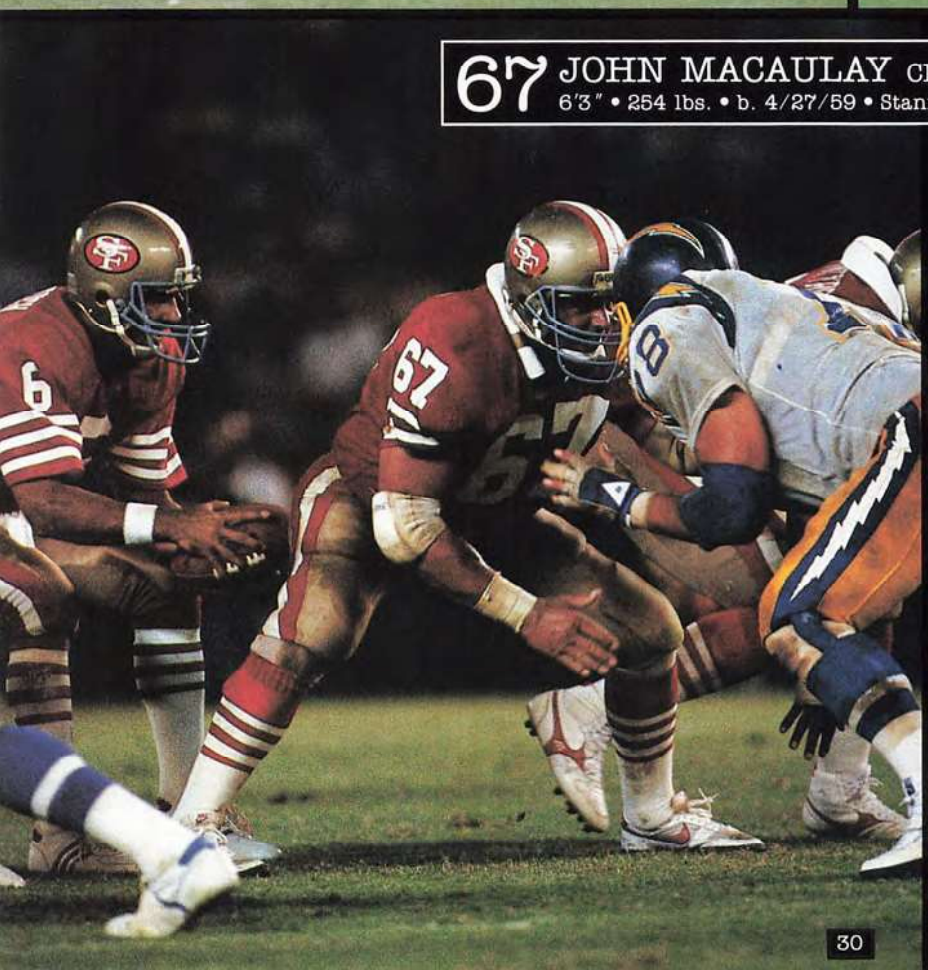
Diagram Courtesy of San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau

SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



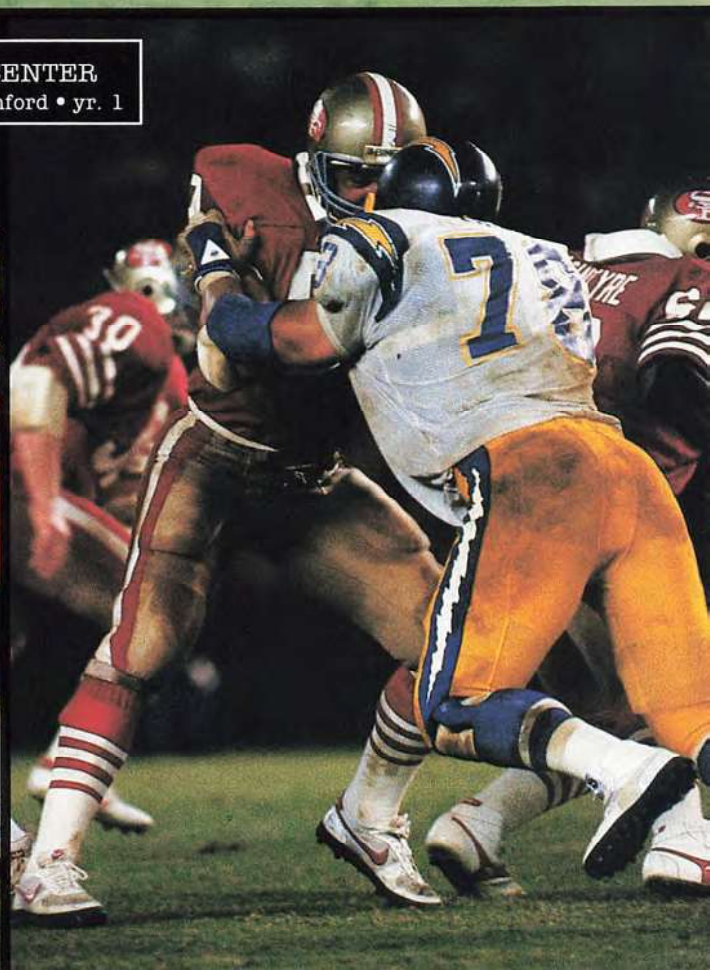
24 DERRICK HARMON RUNNING BACK

5'10" • 202 lbs. • b. 4/26/63 • Cornell • yr. 1



67 JOHN MACAULAY CENTER

6'3" • 254 lbs. • b. 4/27/59 • Stanford • yr. 1



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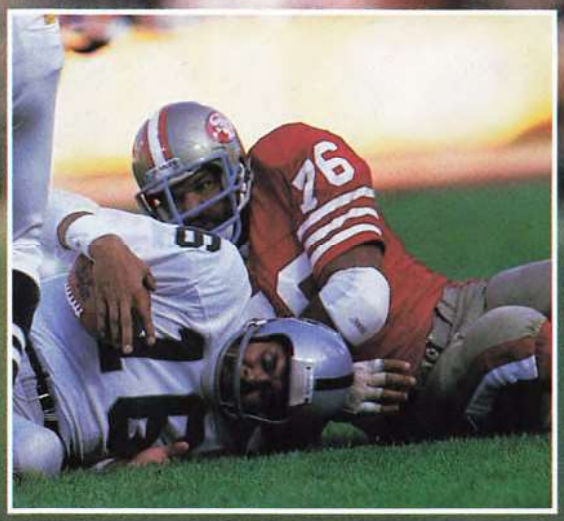
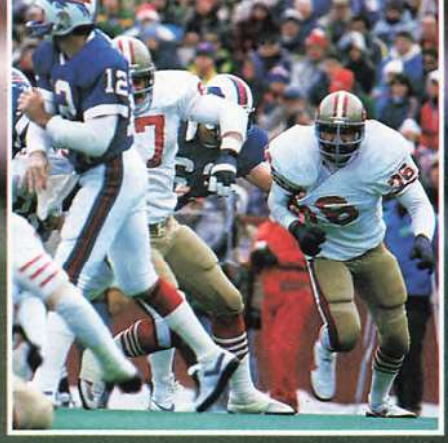
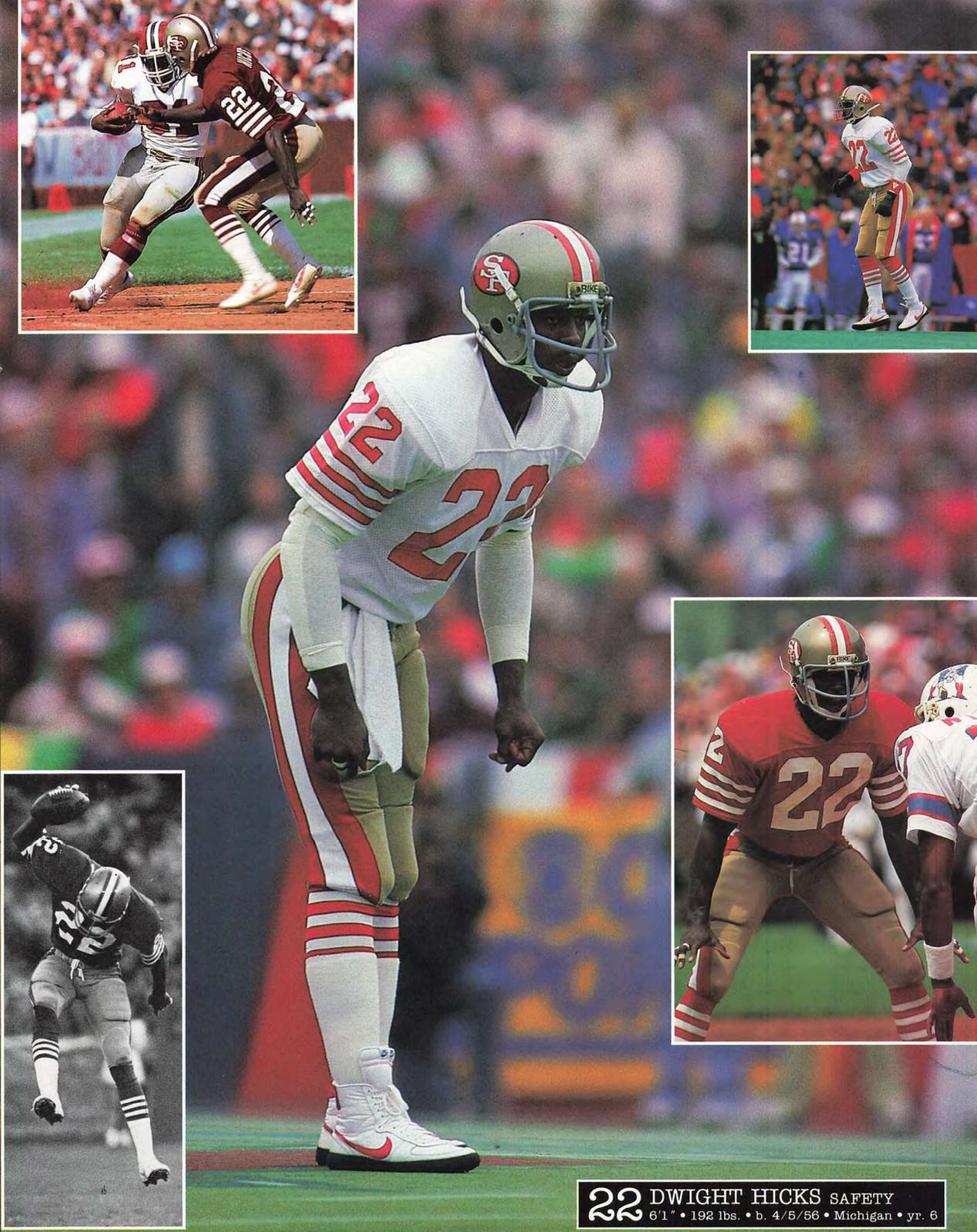
THE DEFENSE





76 DWAINE BOARD DEFENSIVE END
6'5" • 248 lbs. • b. 11/29/56 • N. Carolina A&T • yr. 5

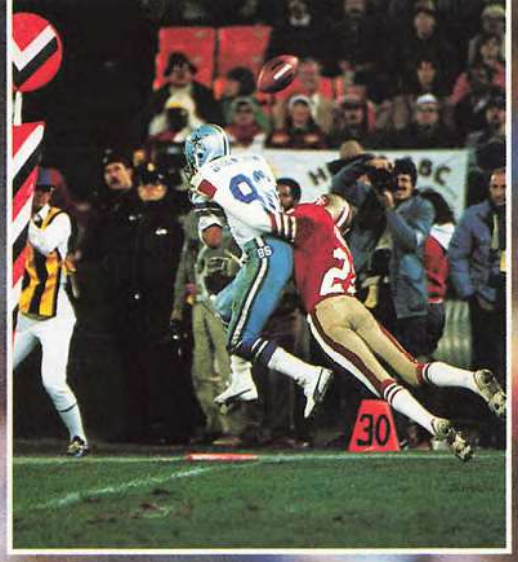


22 DWIGHT HICKS SAFETY
6'1" • 192 lbs. • b. 4/5/56 • Michigan • yr. 6

21 ERIC WRIGHT CORNERBACK
6'1" • 180 lbs. • b. 4/18/59 • Missouri • yr. 4

27 CARLTON WILLIAMSON SAFETY

6'0" • 204 lbs. • b. 6/12/58 • Pittsburgh • yr. 4



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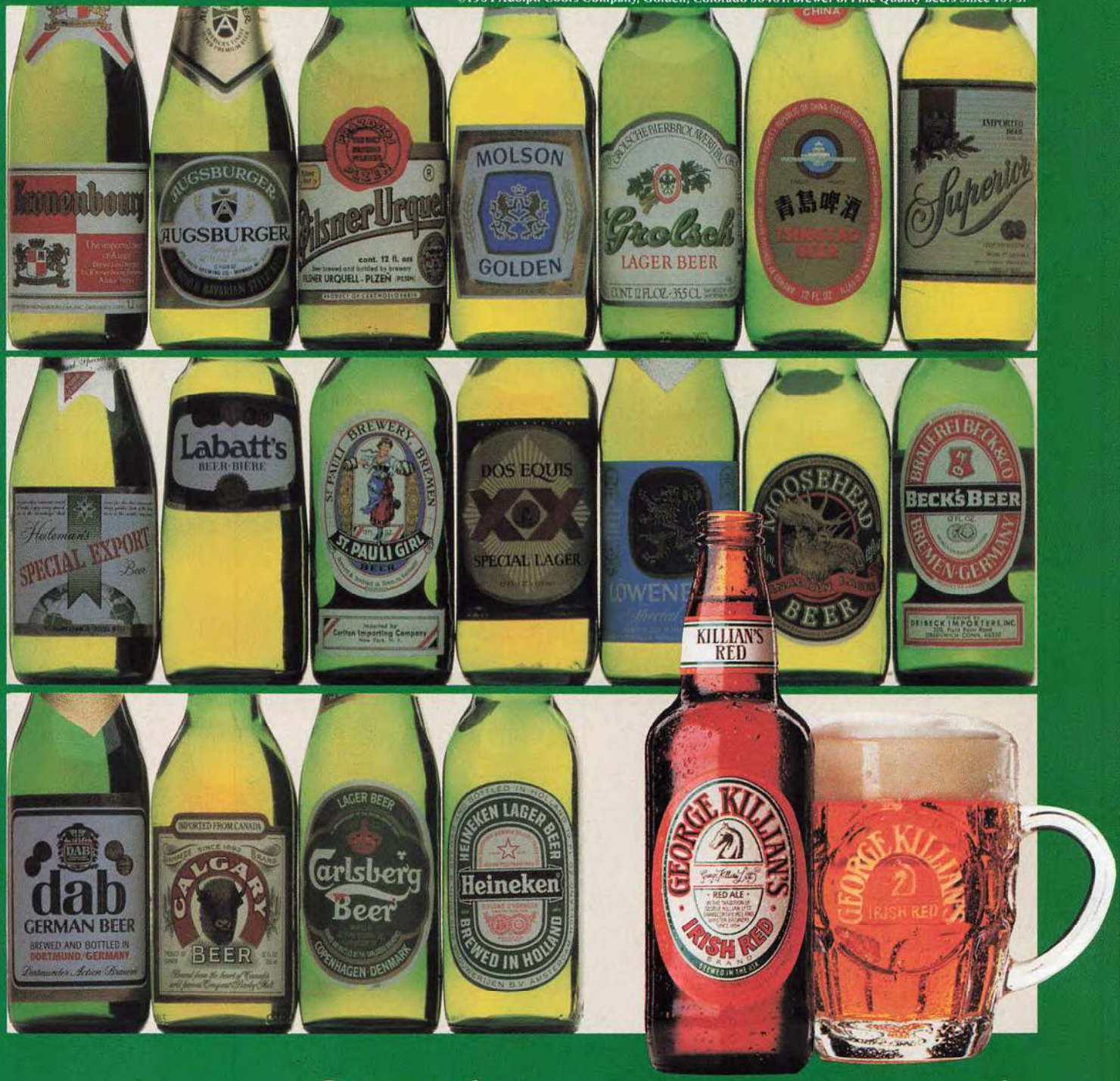

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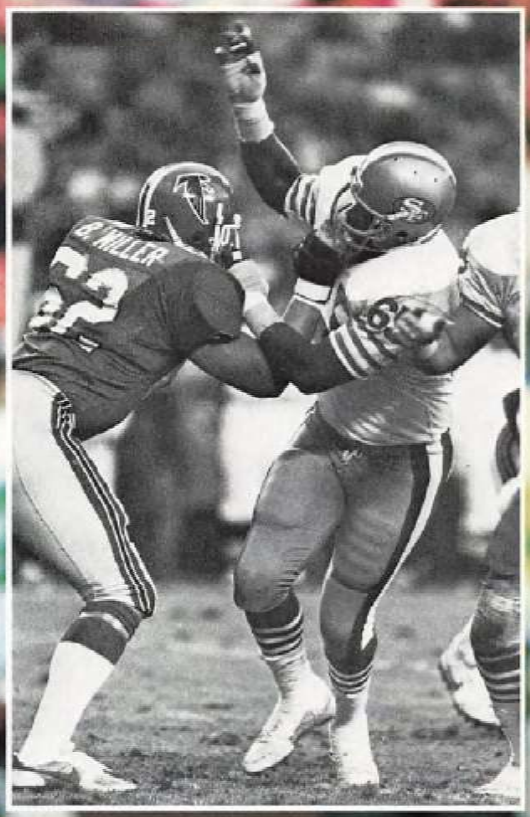
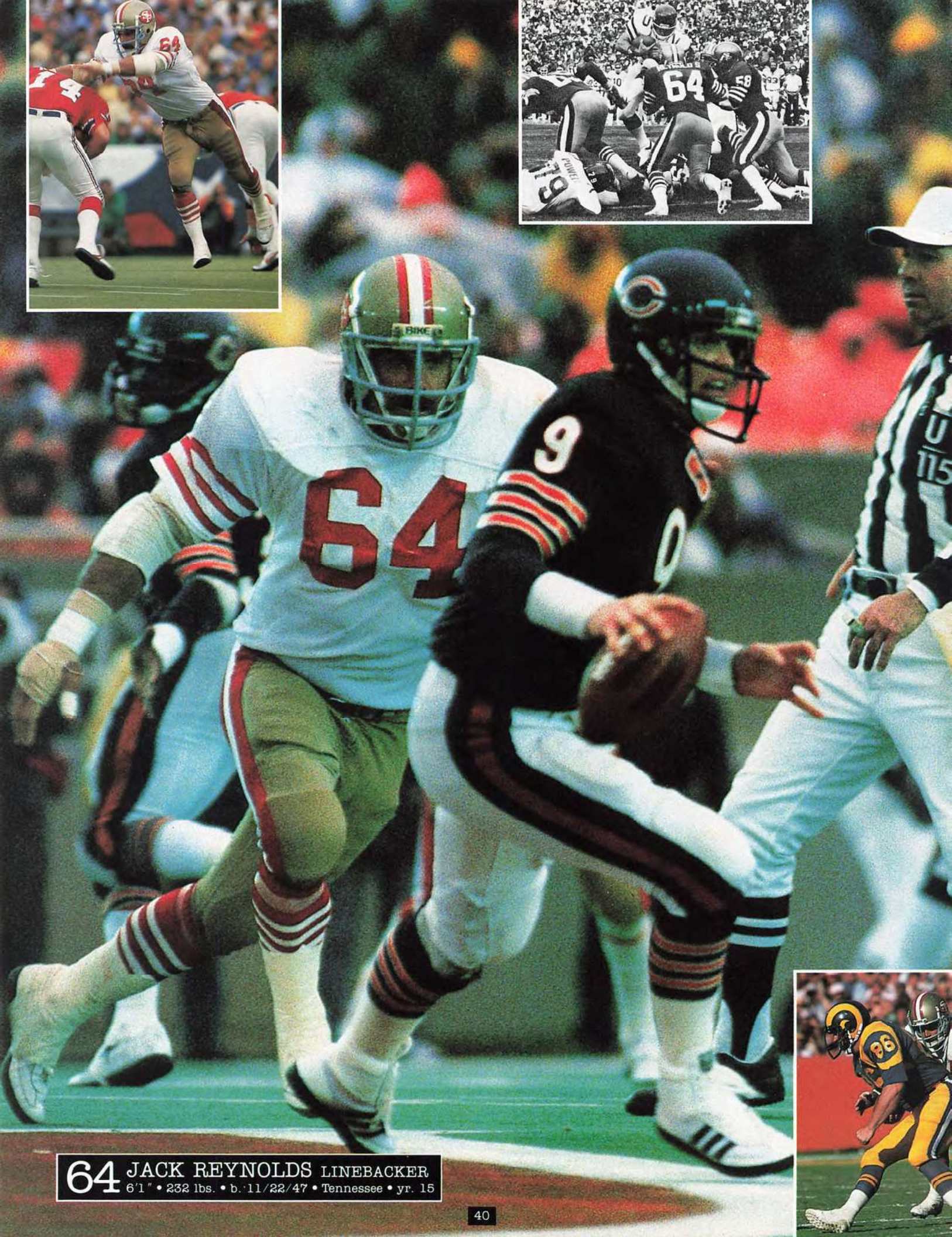
KILLIAN'S RED
INSTEAD



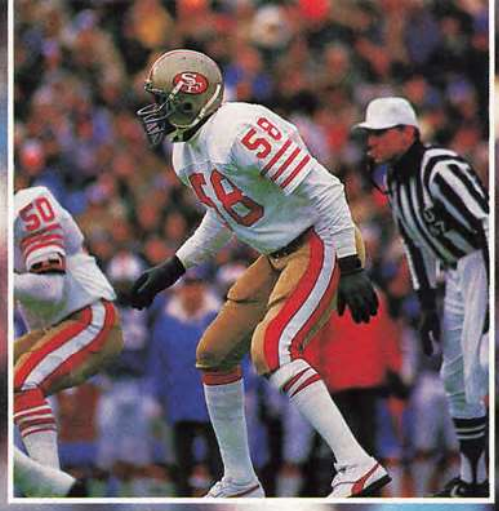
65 LAWRENCE PILLERS DEF. TACKLE/DEF. END
6'4" • 250 lbs. • b. 11/4/52 • Alcorn A&M • yr. 8

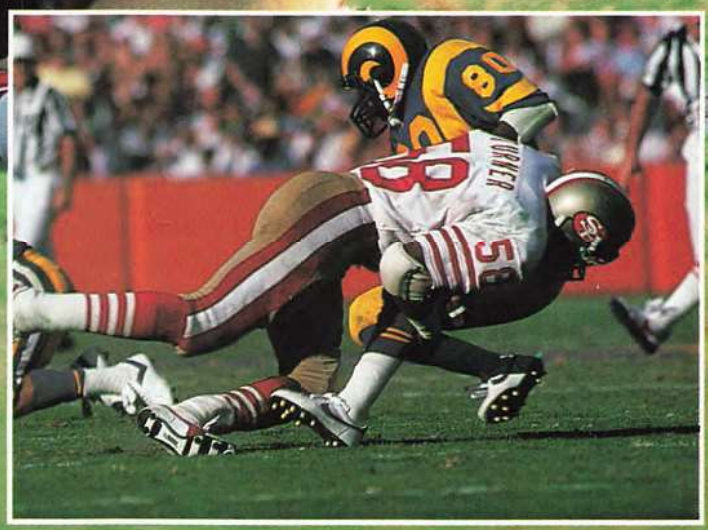


64 JACK REYNOLDS LINEBACKER
6'1" • 232 lbs. • b. 11/22/47 • Tennessee • yr. 15

58 KEENA TURNER LINEBACKER

6'2" • 219 lbs. • b. 10/22/58 • Purdue • yr. 5





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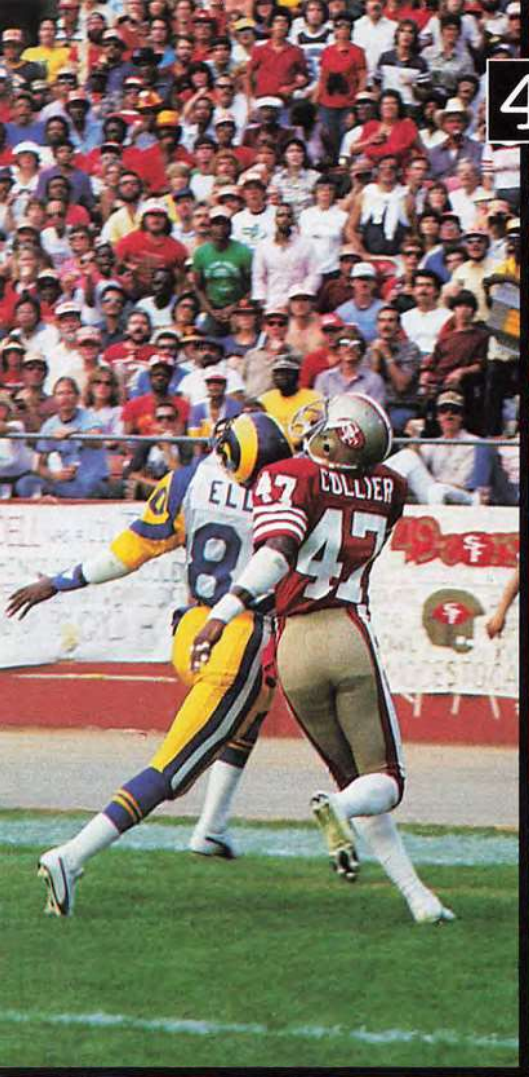
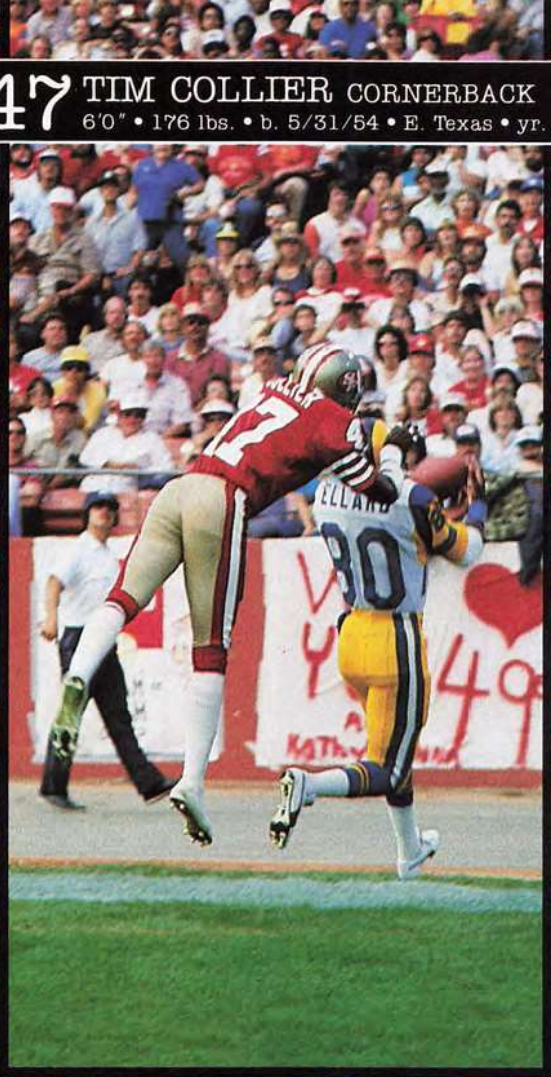
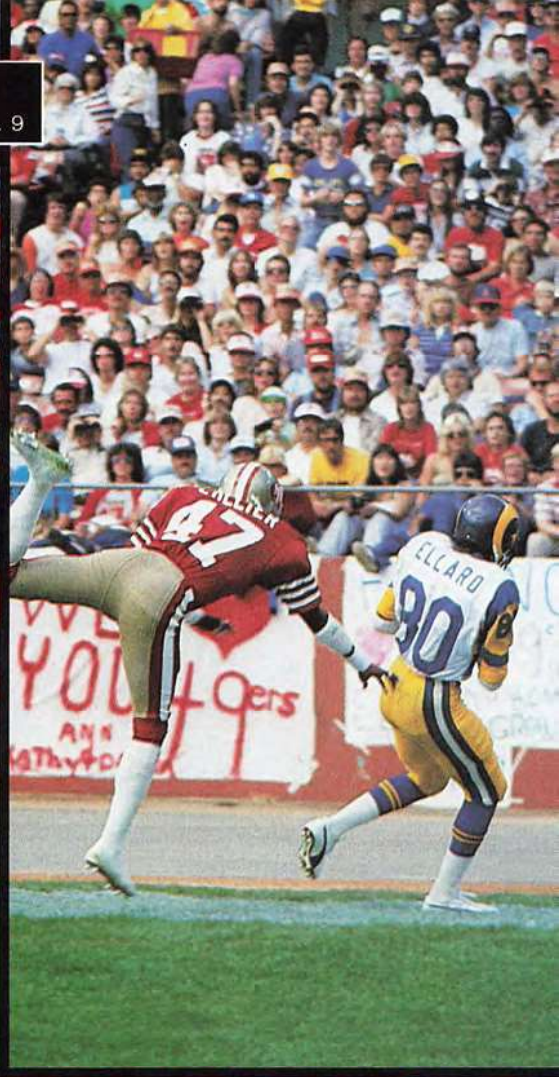
47 TIM COLLIER CORNERBACK

6'0" • 176 lbs. • b. 5/31/54 • E. Texas • yr. 9

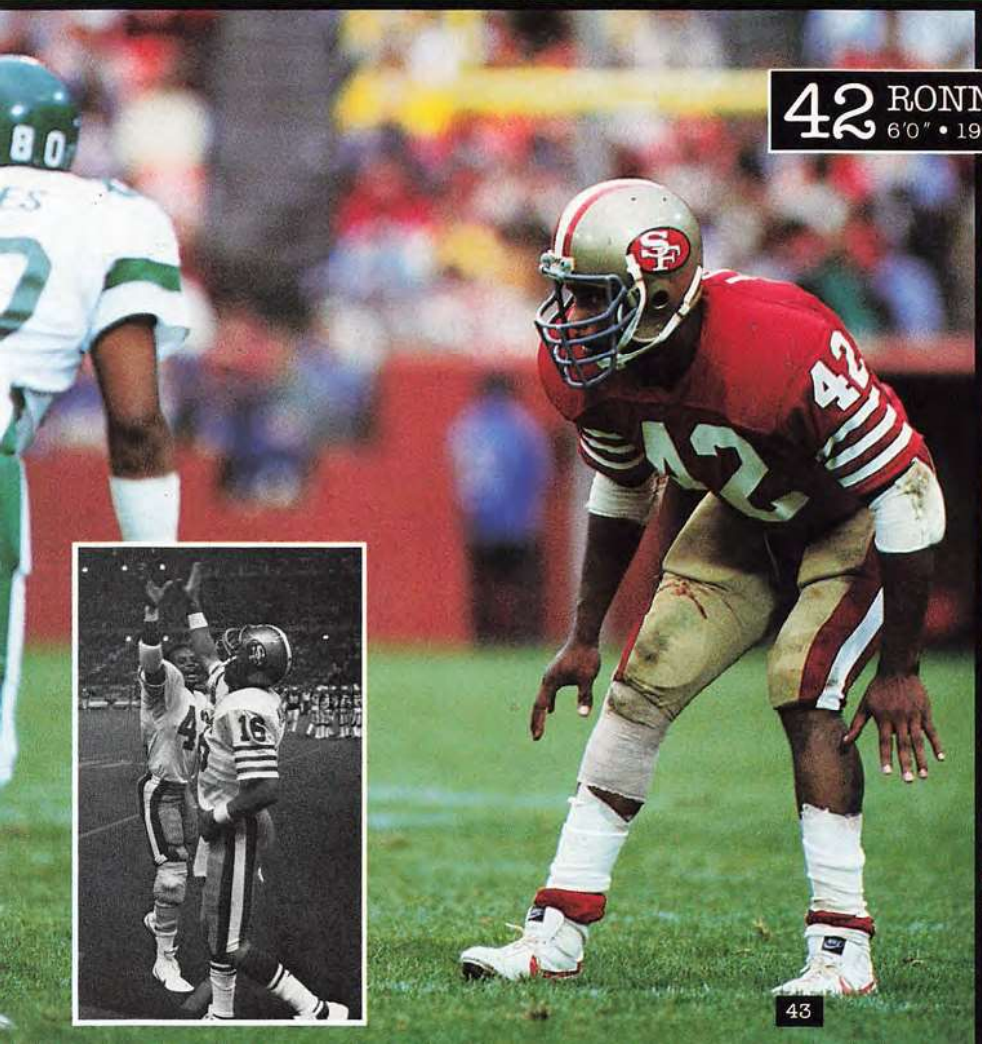


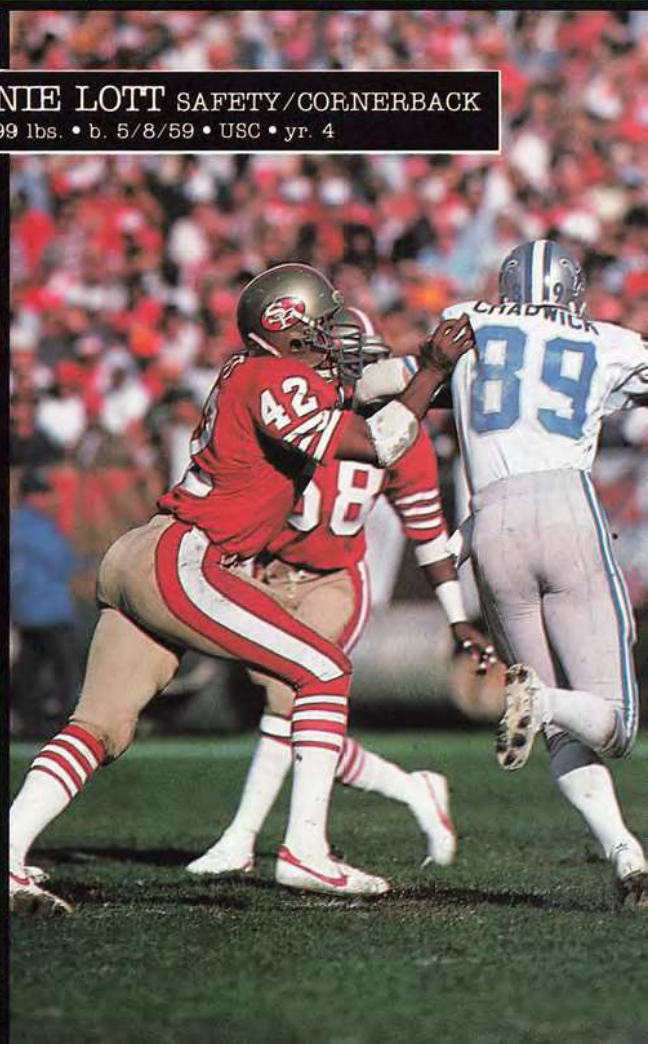




42 RONNIE LOTT SAFETY/CORNERBACK

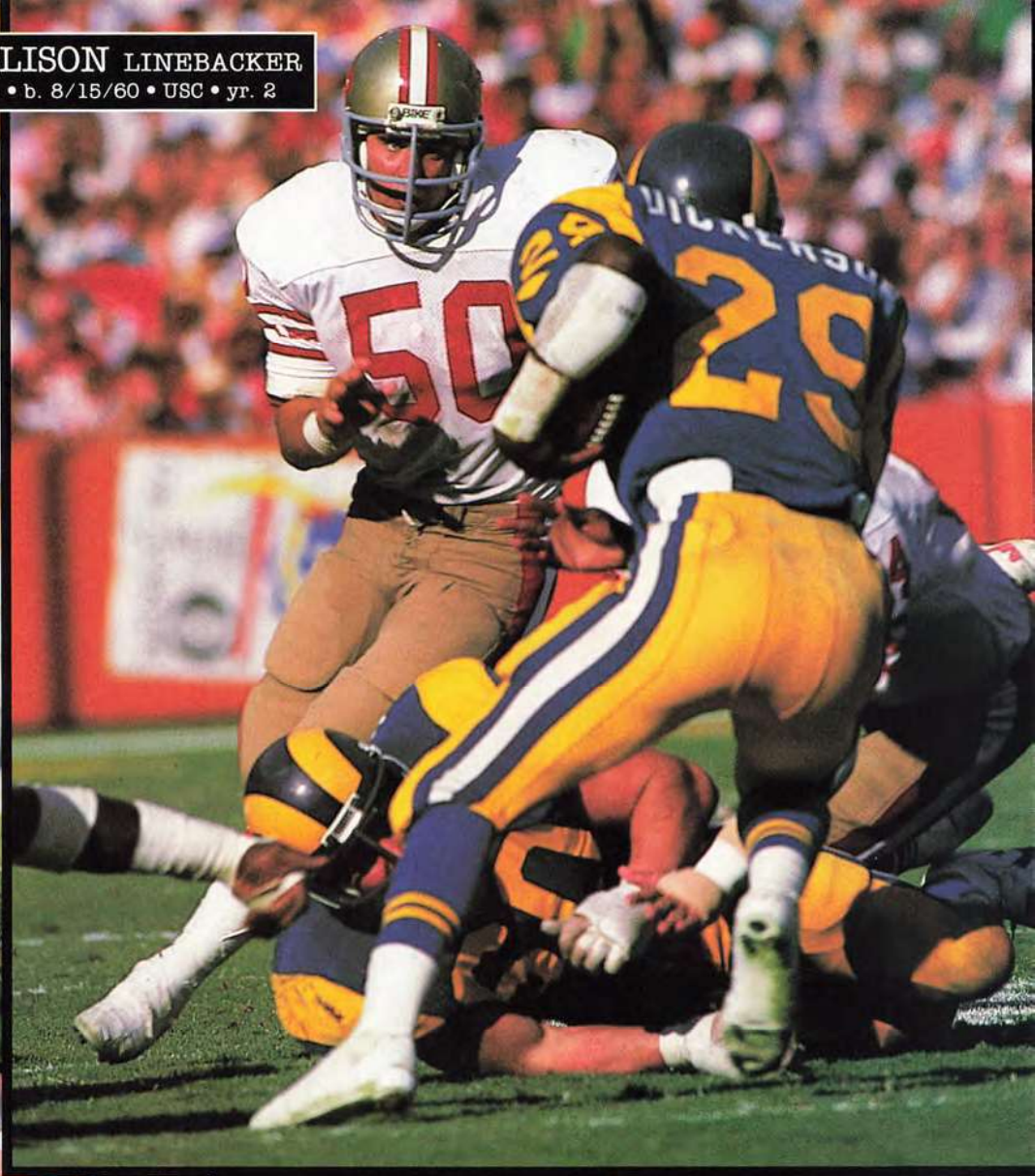
6'0" • 199 lbs. • b. 5/8/59 • USC • yr. 4





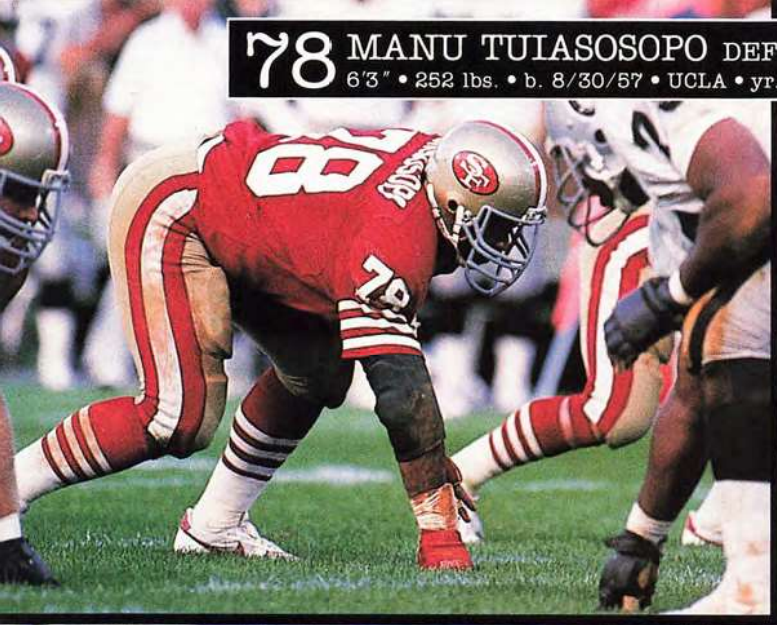
50 RIKI ELLISON LINEBACKER

6'2" • 220 lbs. • b. 8/15/60 • USC • yr. 2



57 DAN BUNZ LINEBACKER

6'4" • 225 lbs. • b. 10/7/55 • Long Beach • yr. 6



78 MANU TUIASOSOPO DEF. TACKLE
6'3" • 252 lbs. • b. 8/30/57 • UCLA • yr. 6

72 JEFF STOVER NOSE TACKLE
6'5" • 275 lbs. • b. 5/22/58 • Oregon • yr. 3

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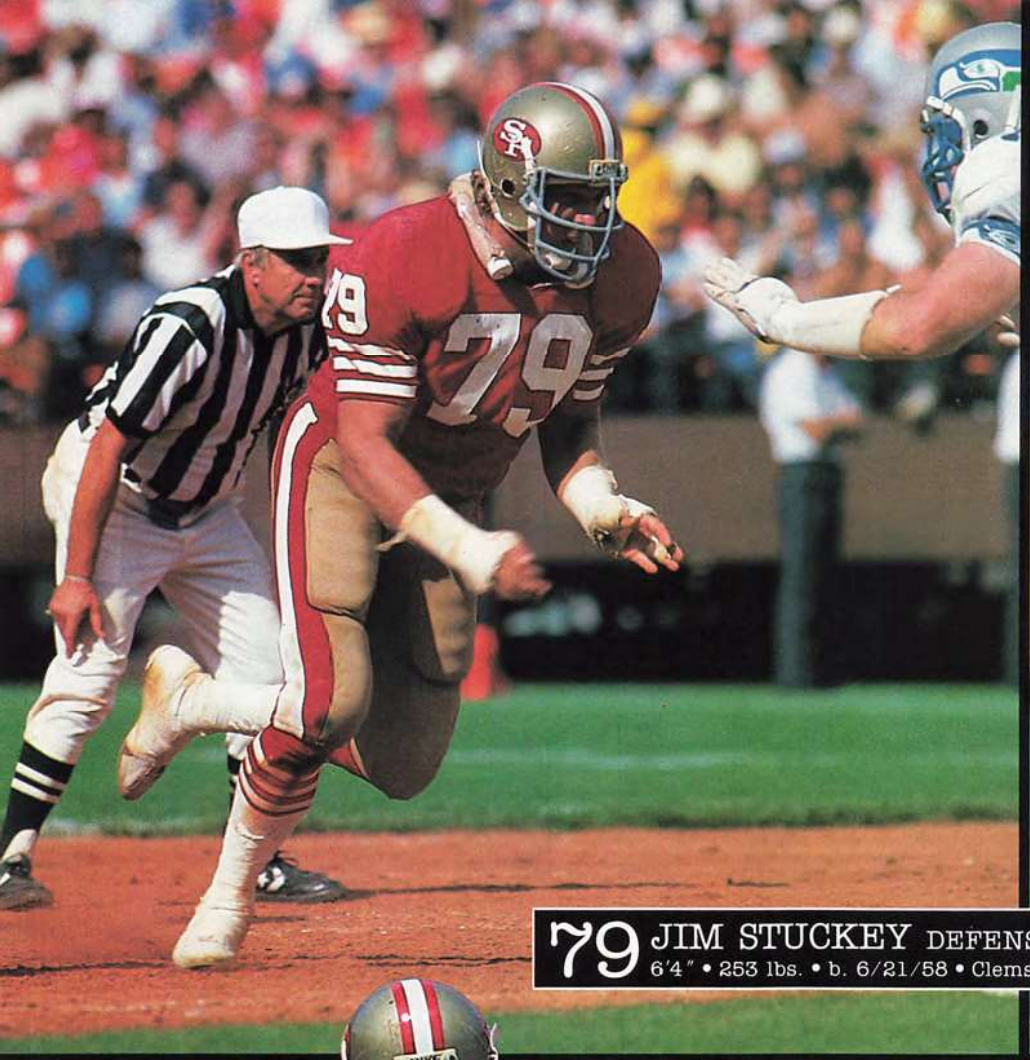
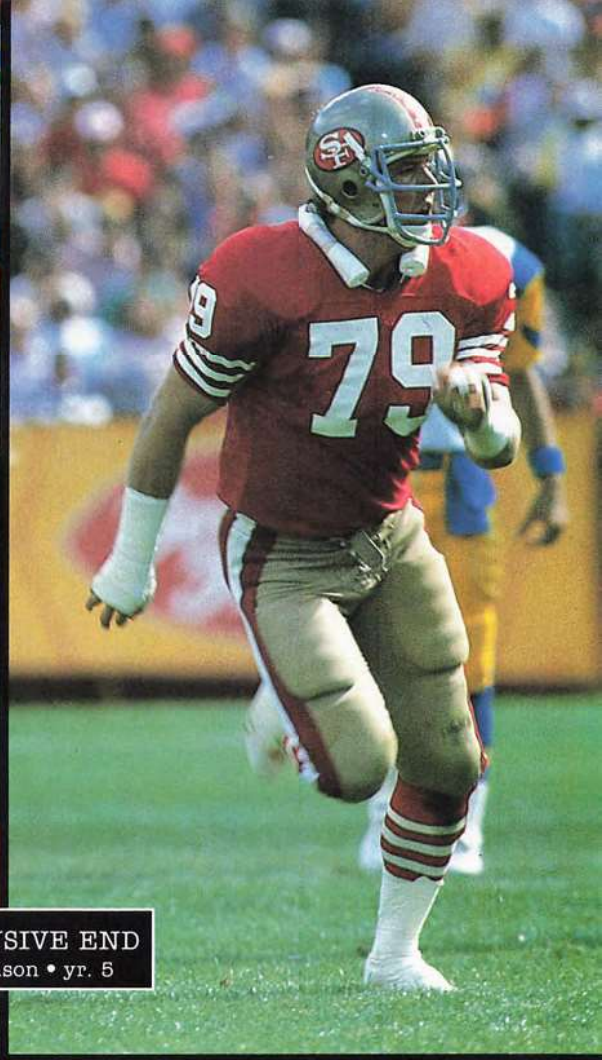
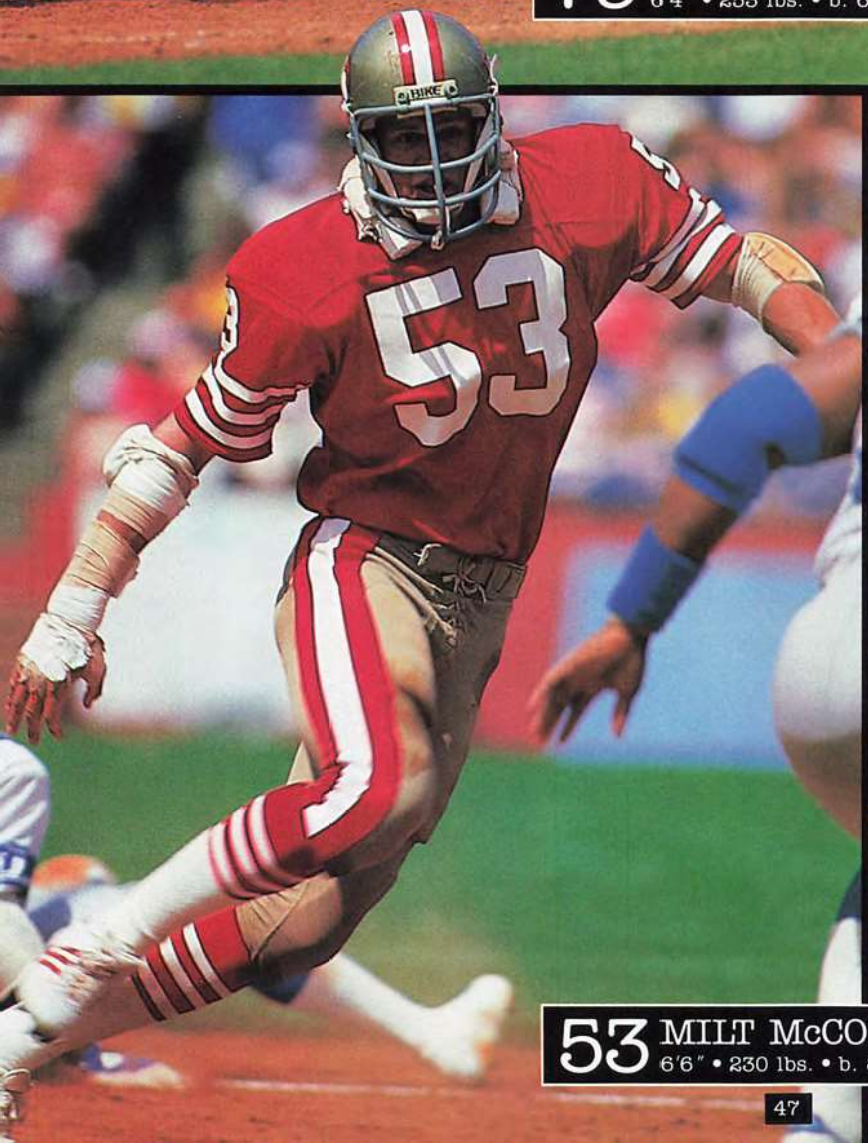


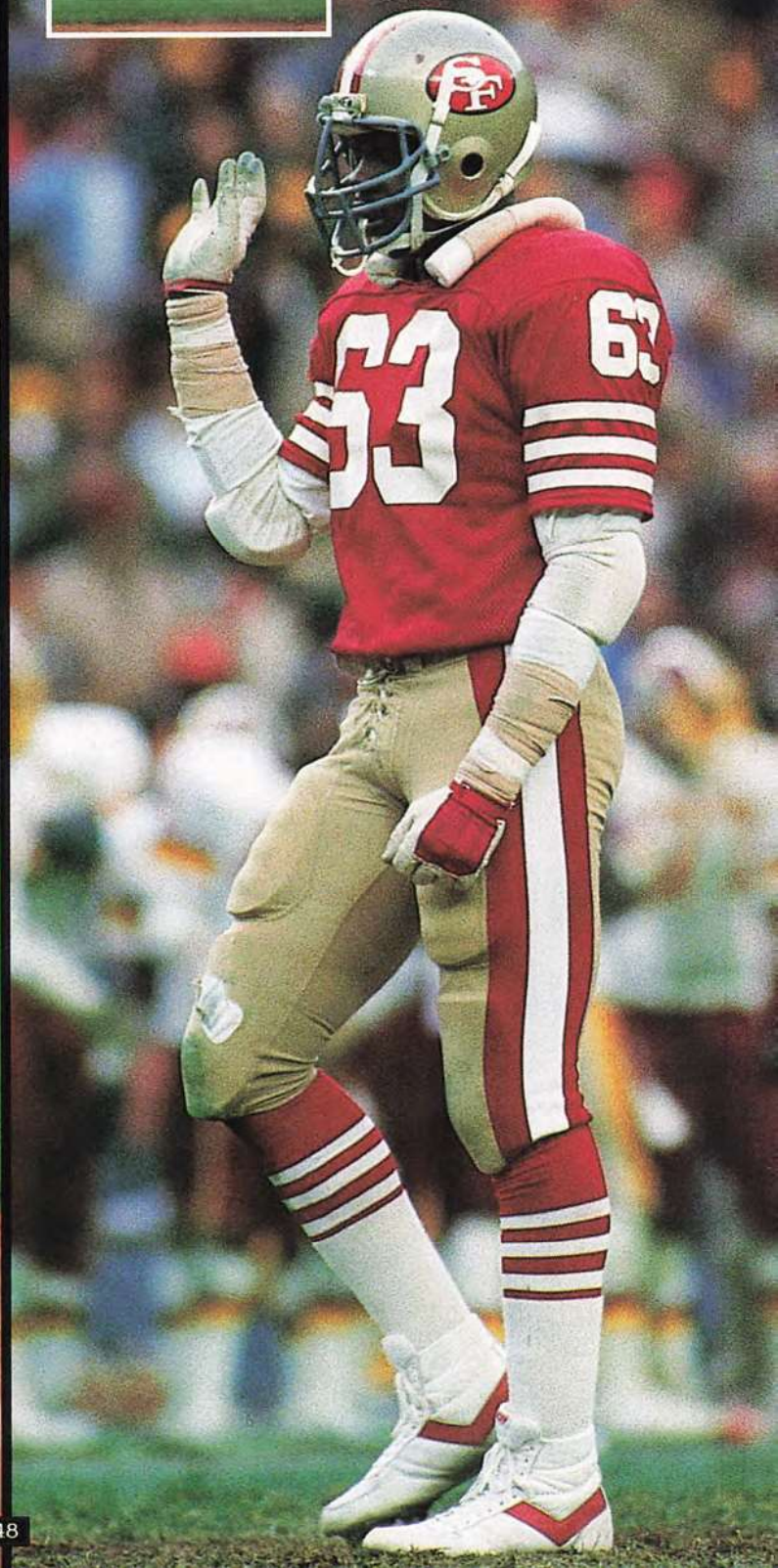


79 JIM STUCKEY DEFENSIVE END
6'4" • 253 lbs. • b. 6/21/58 • Clemson • yr. 5

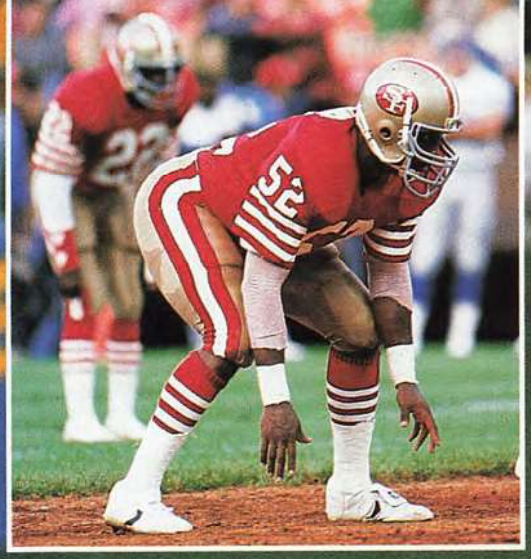


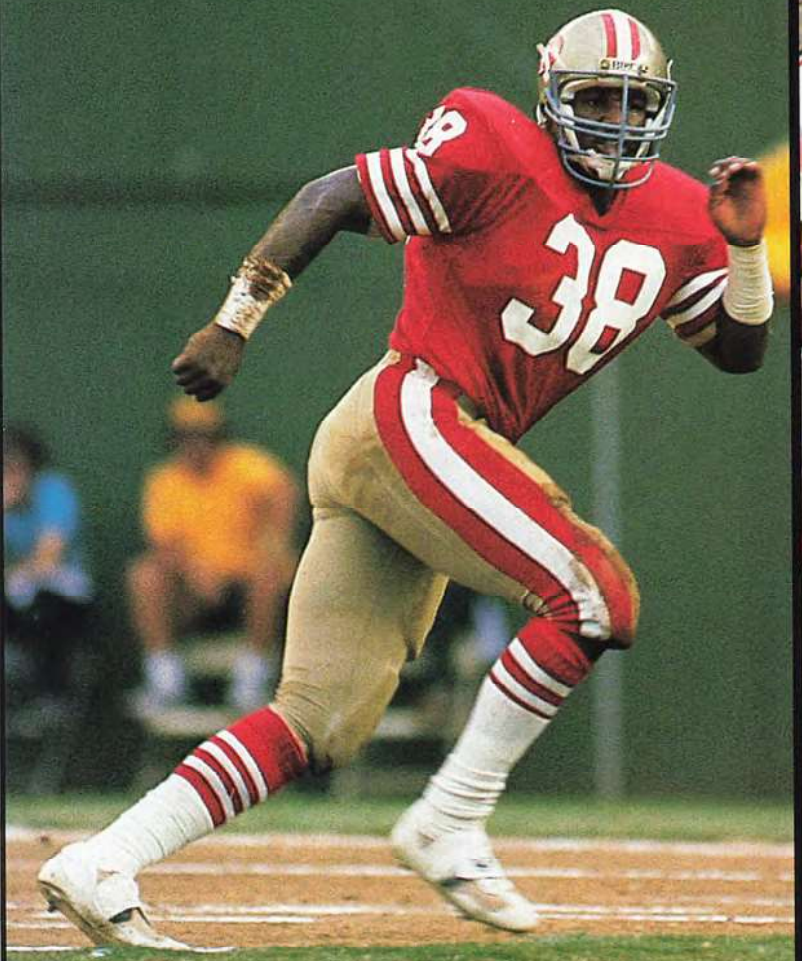
53 MILT McCOLL LINEBACKER
6'6" • 230 lbs. • b. 8/28/59 • Stanford • yr. 4

59 GARY MOTEN LINEBACKER
6'1" • 210 lbs. • b. 4/3/61 • S. Methodist • yr. 2



28 TOM HOLMOE SAFETY
6'2" • 180 lbs. • b. 3/7/60 • BYU • yr. 2





52 BLANCHARD MONTGOMERY LINEBACKER
6'2" • 236 lbs. • b. 2/17/61 • UCLA • yr. 2

75 JOHN HARTY DEFENSIVE END
6'4" • 263 lbs. • b. 12/17/58 • Iowa • yr. 4

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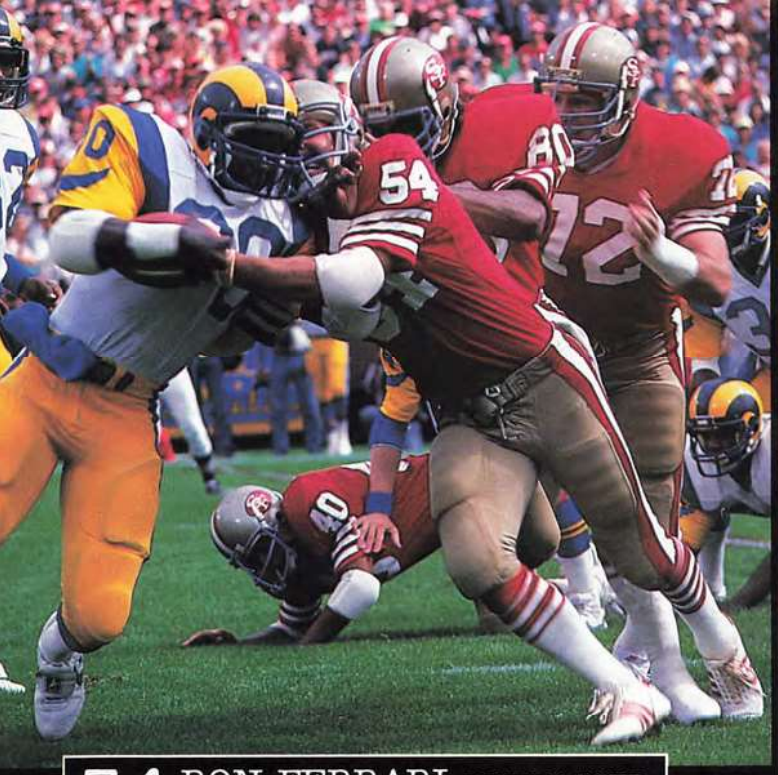
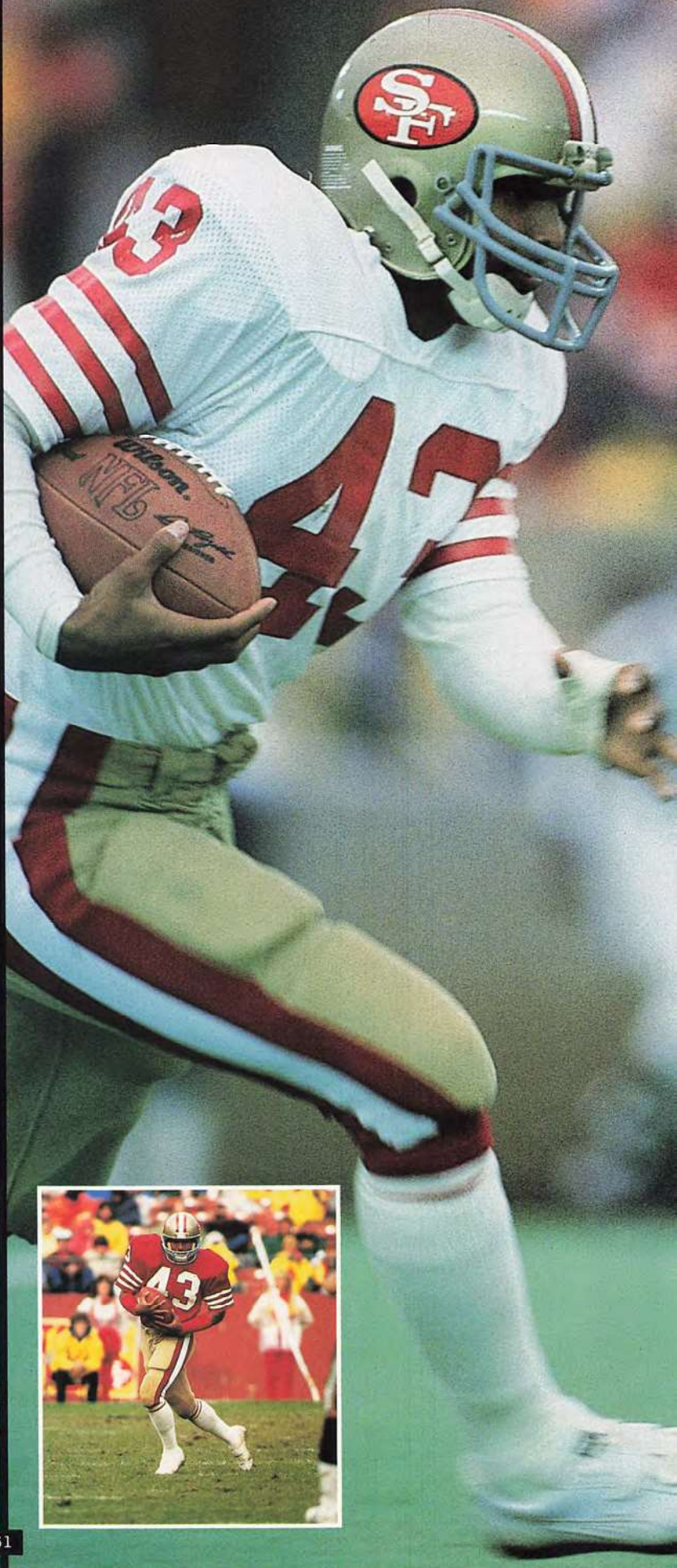
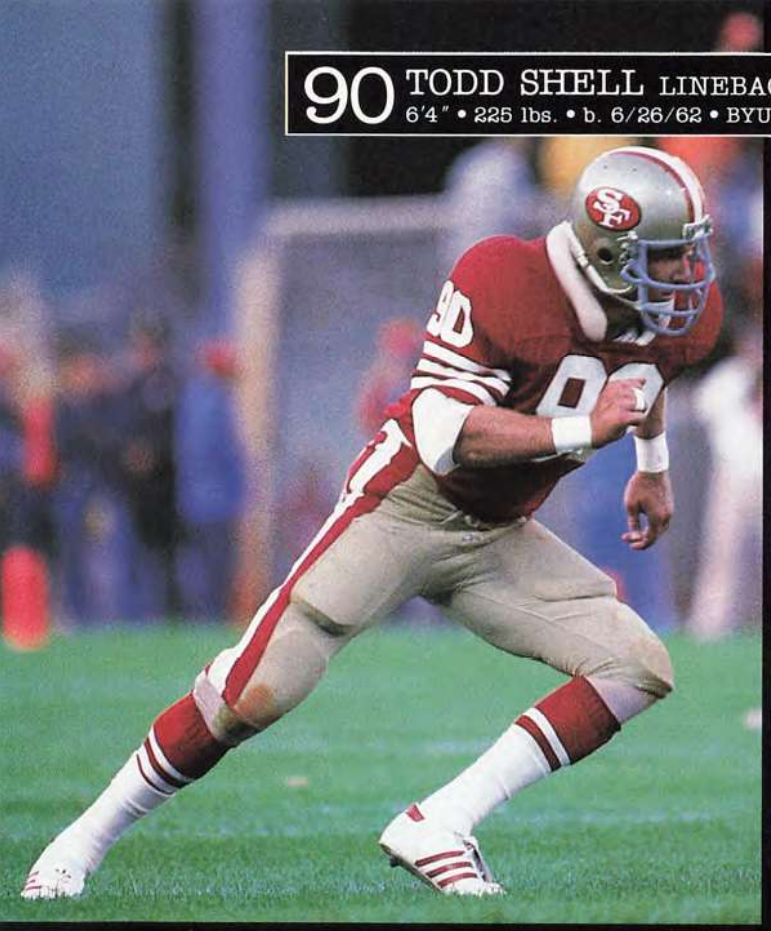
DRIBECK IMPORTERS, GREENWICH, CONN.



54 RON FERRARI LINEBACKER
6'0" • 212 lbs. • b. 7/30/59 • Illinois • yr. 3

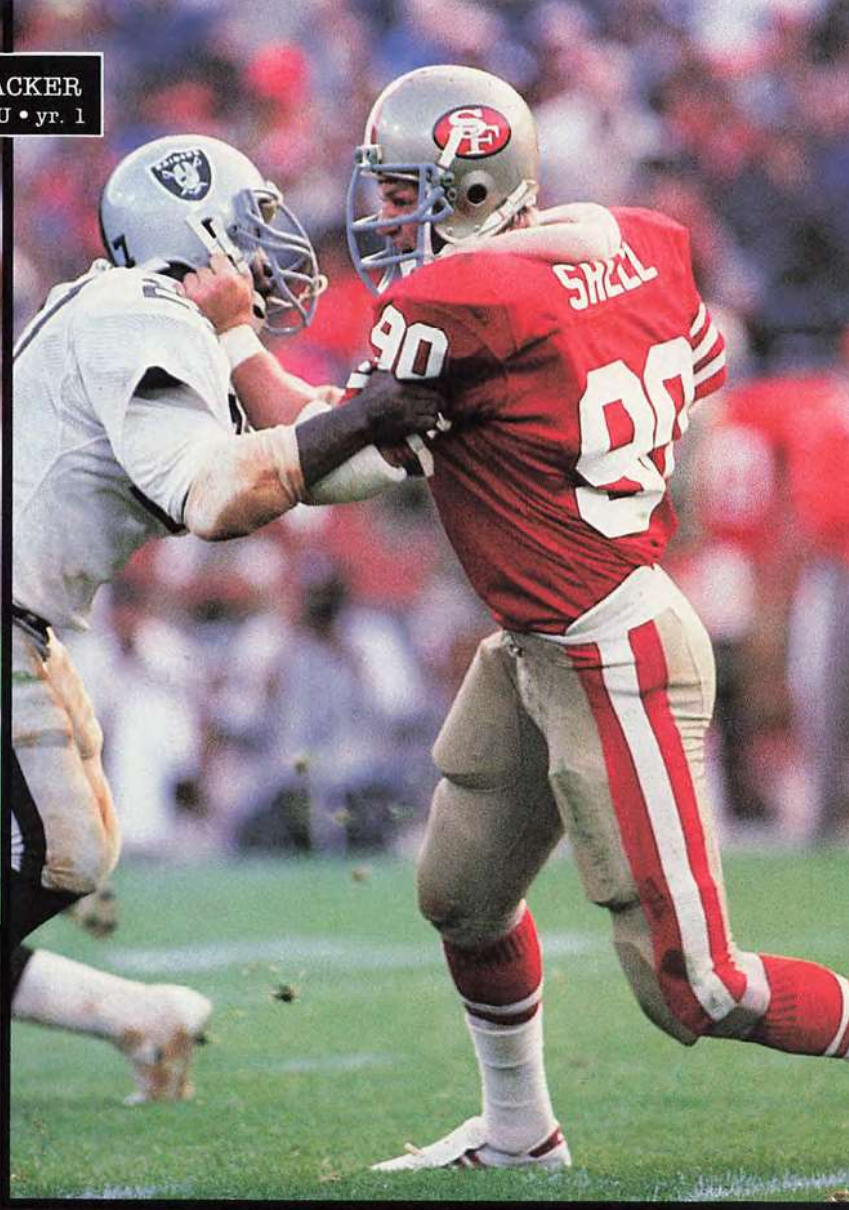
43 DANA McLEMORE KICK RETURNER/CORNERBACK
5'10" • 183 lbs. • b. 7/1/60 • Hawaii • yr. 3

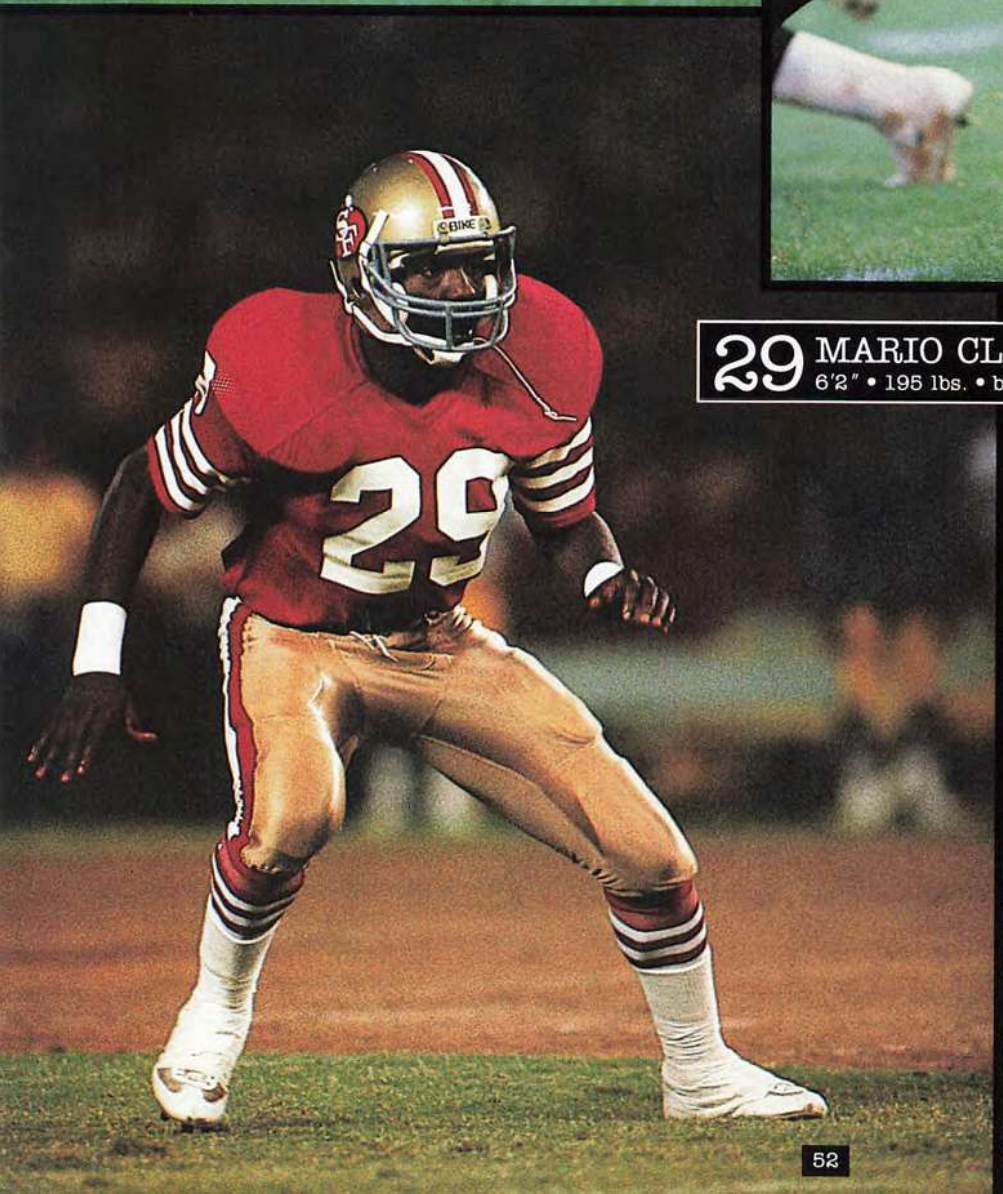




90 TODD SHELL LINEBACKER

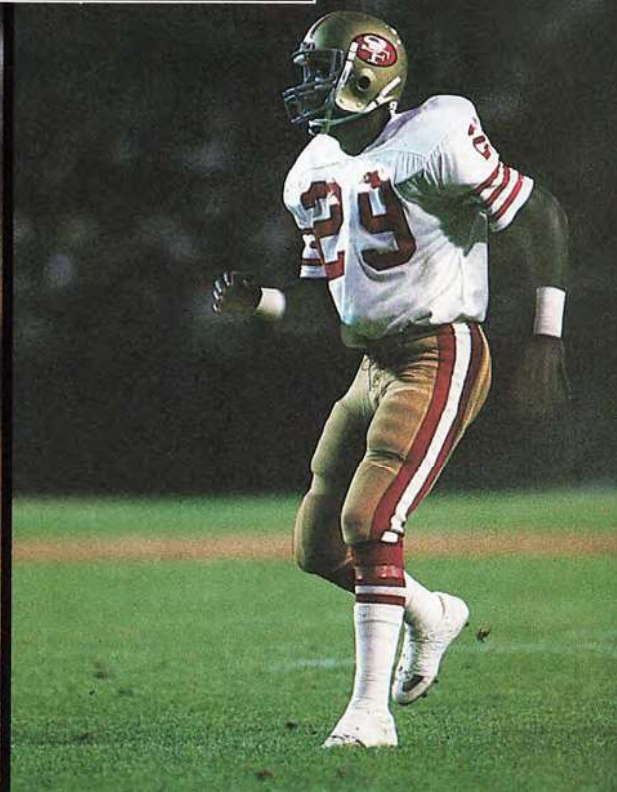
6'4" • 225 lbs. • b. 6/26/62 • BYU • yr. 1





29 MARIO CLARK CORNERBACK

6'2" • 195 lbs. • b. 3/29/54 • Oregon • yr. 9



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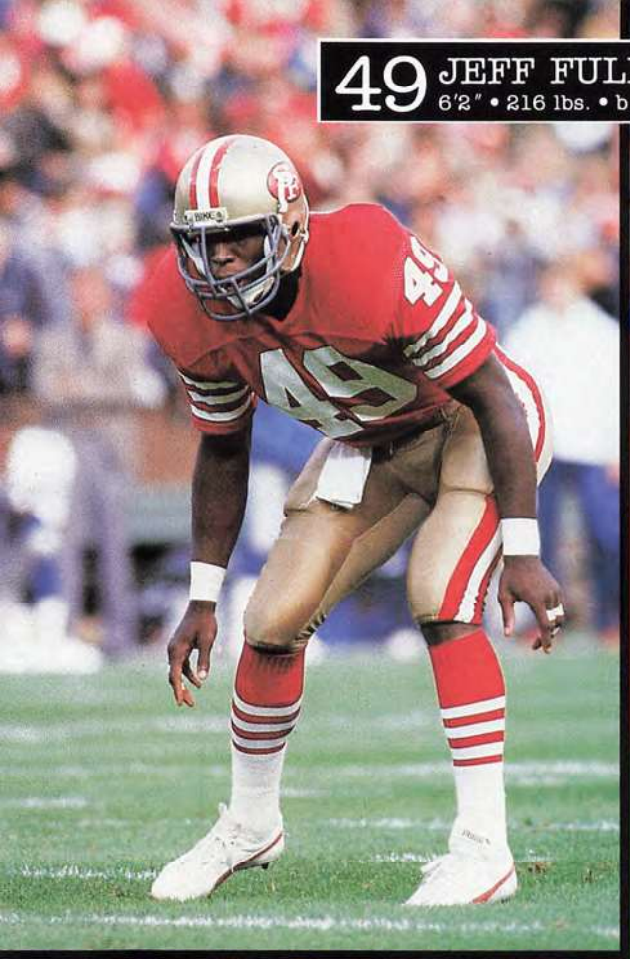
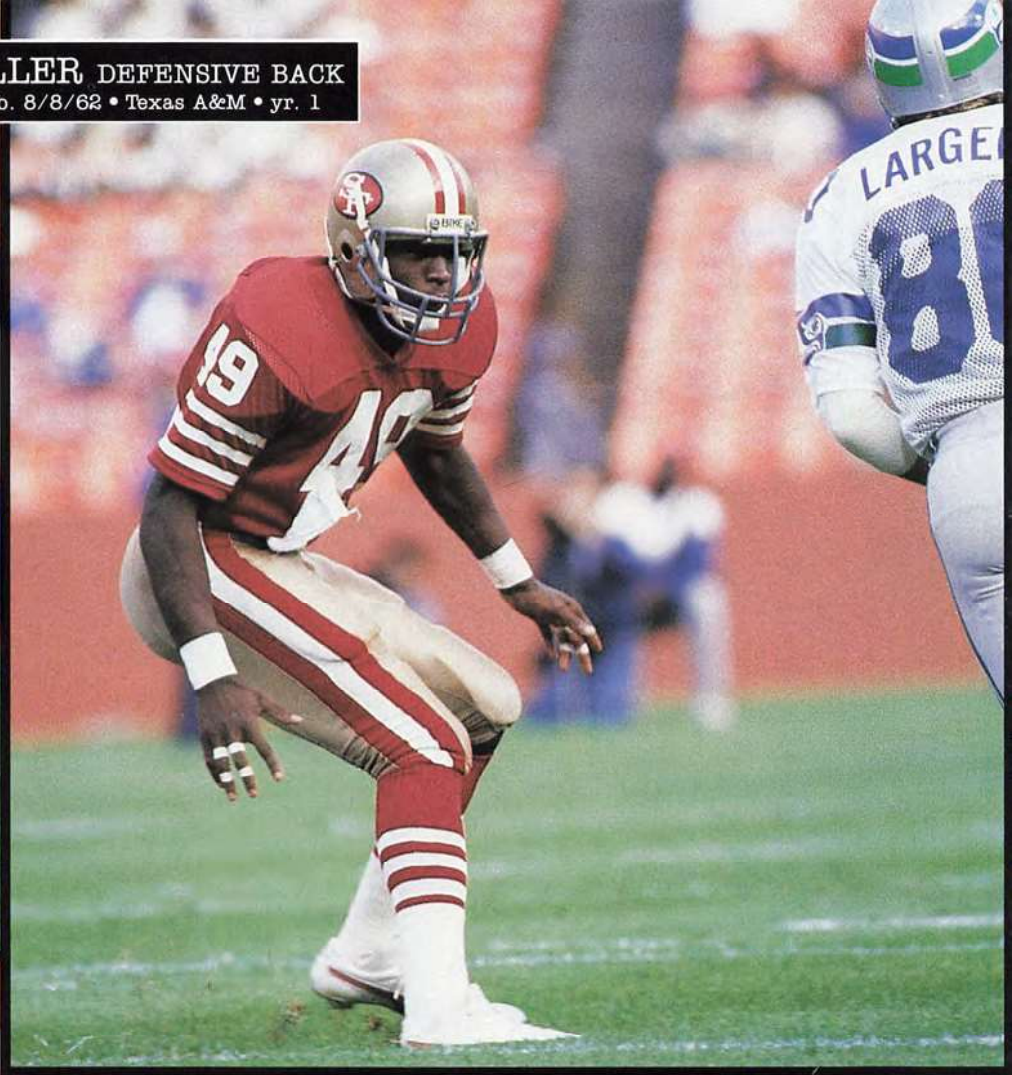
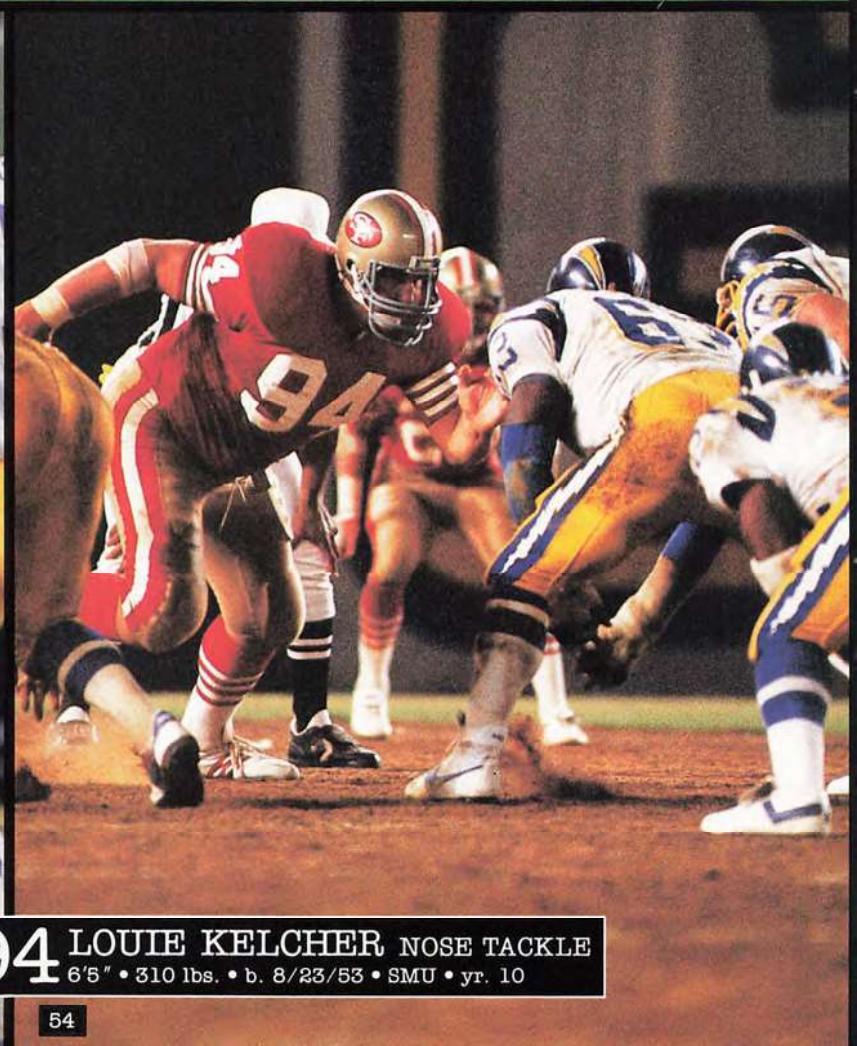
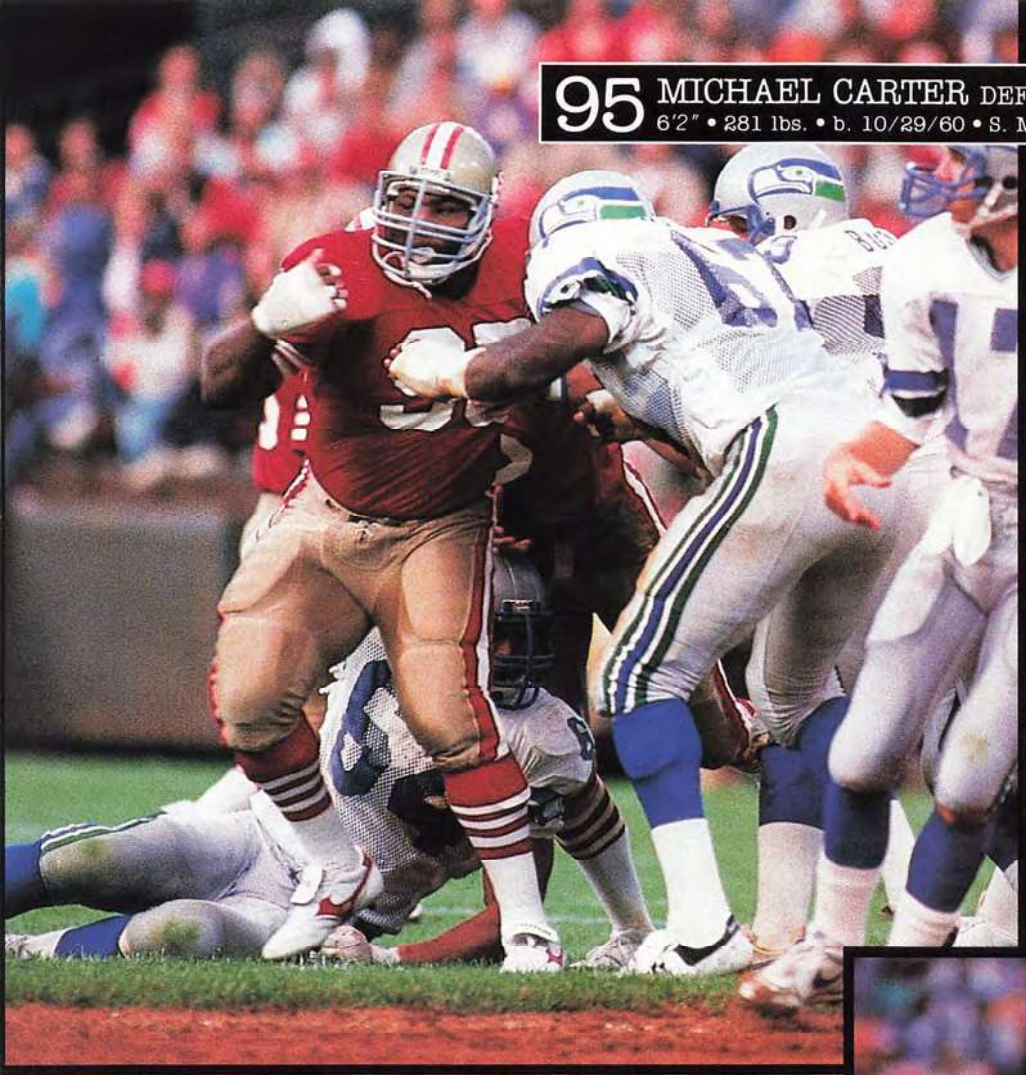


49 JEFF FULLER DEFENSIVE BACK
6'2" • 216 lbs. • b. 8/8/62 • Texas A&M • yr. 1



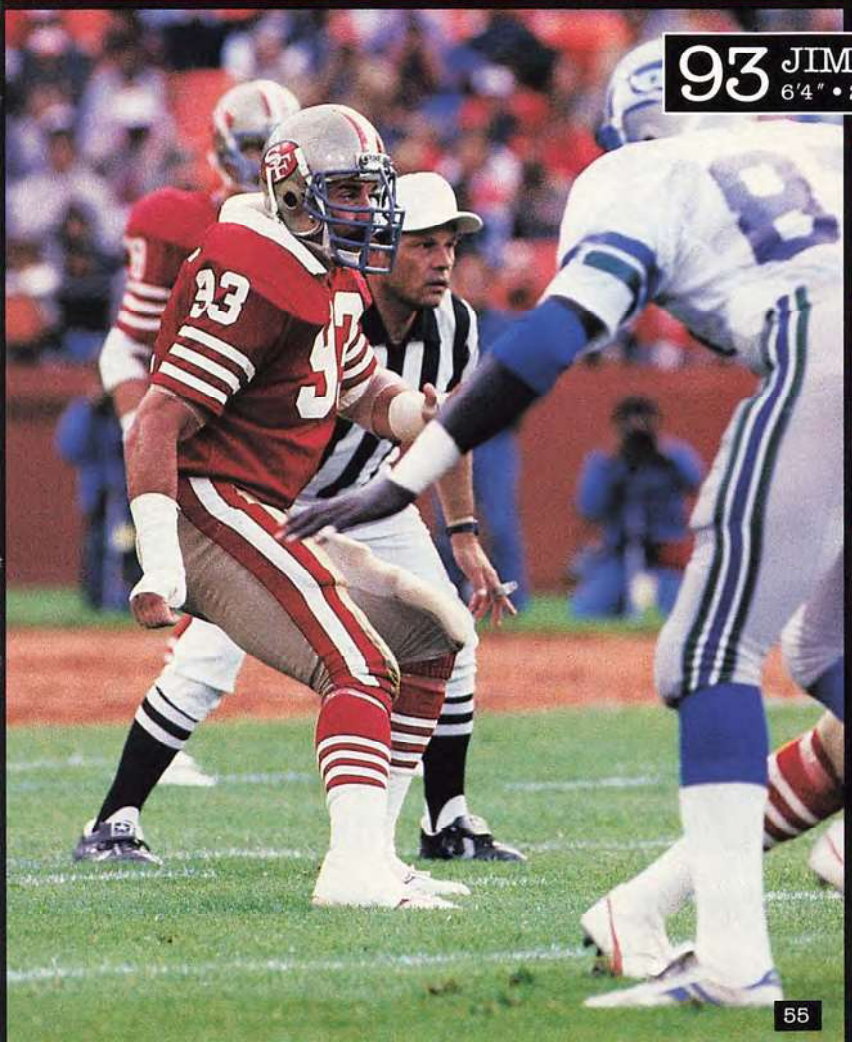


94 LOUIE KELCHER NOSE TACKLE
6'5" • 310 lbs. • b. 8/23/53 • SMU • yr. 10



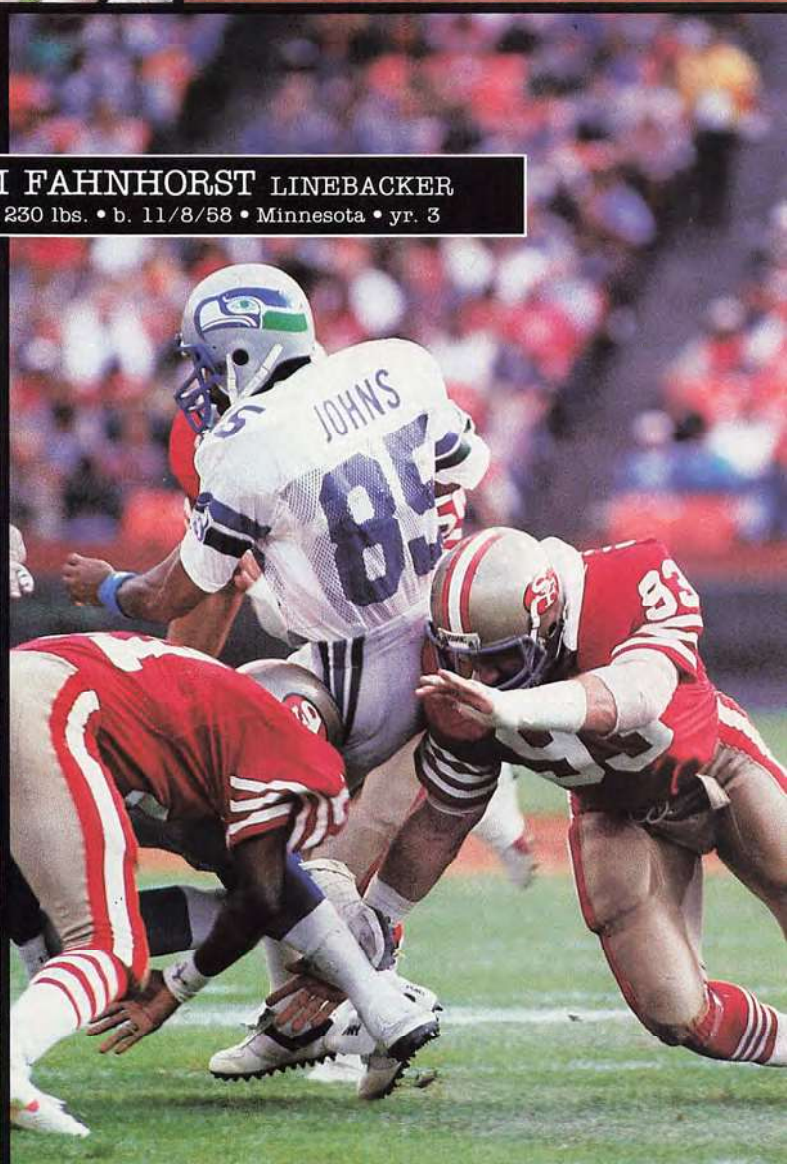
95 MICHAEL CARTER DEFENSIVE TACKLE

6'2" • 281 lbs. • b. 10/29/60 • S. Methodist • yr. 1



93 JIM FAHNHORST LINEBACKER

6'4" • 230 lbs. • b. 11/8/58 • Minnesota • yr. 3



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Bill Walsh: Portrait of the Artist as a Football Coach

He stands beside the practice field surveying all with a decidedly professorial expression. Chin cupped in hand, he squints at the action through critical, blue eyes. Furrows on his face and a head full of gray hair reflect a job of constant concern.

This is Bill Walsh, president and head coach of the San Francisco 49ers. He appears too casual and cosmopolitan for a president. But Walsh has established himself as one of the most innovative and, finally, successful coaches in the National Football League. After 22 years as an assistant, Walsh took over the 49ers in 1979 and by the end of the 1981 NFL season the once-lowly San Francisco team had become Super Bowl XVI champions.

But perhaps just as important, in the overall picture, was the 49ers' success in 1983, when they made the playoffs for the second time in three years and came within four points of going to the Super Bowl.

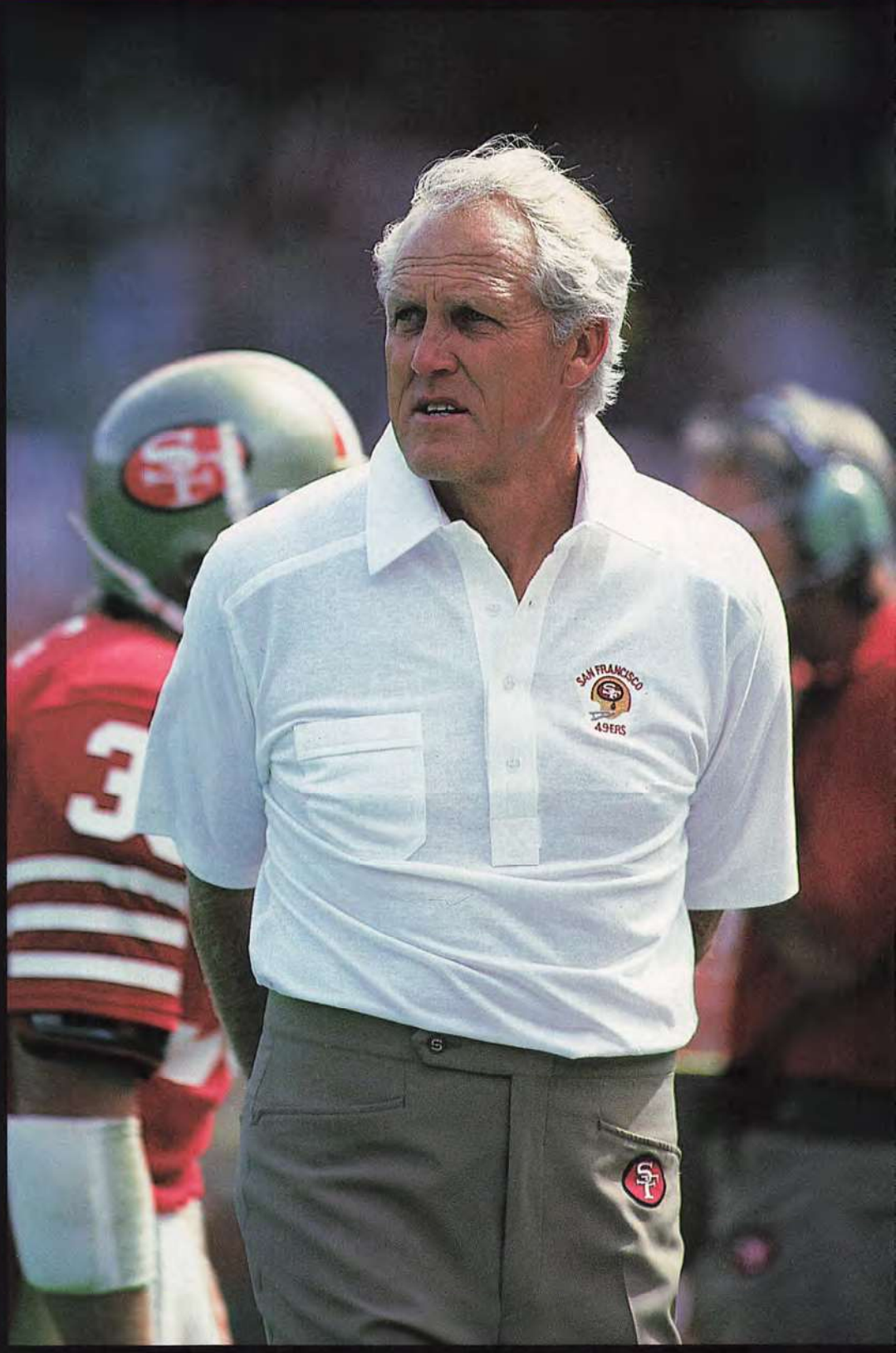
For Walsh the comeback was a dramatic one. After the disappointing 1982 season, he openly considered stepping aside as head coach. There are some who believe that if the 49ers had won the Super Bowl last season, Walsh would have dropped the title of "head coach."

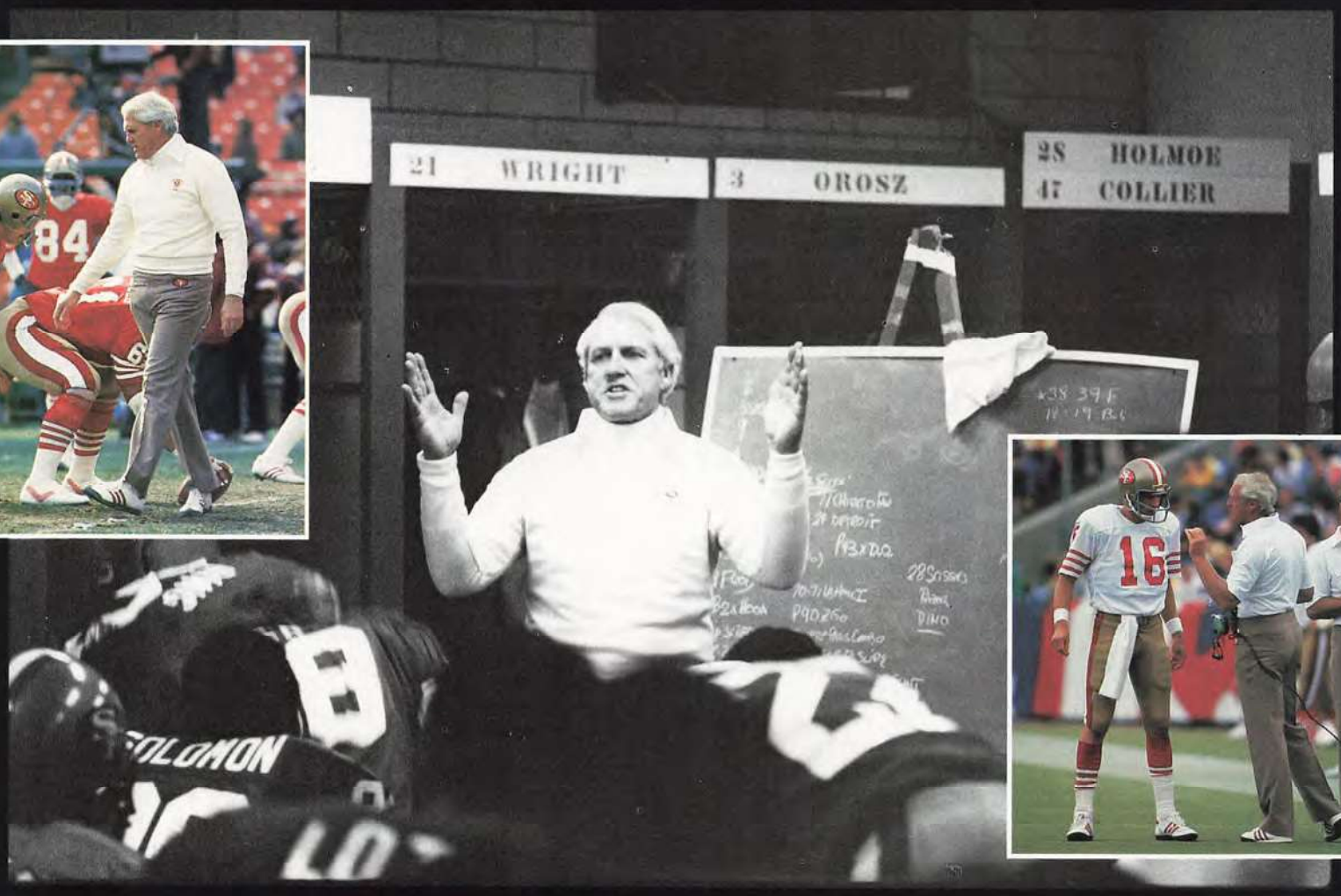
But the 49ers only came close, close enough to tantalize Walsh once more. And now San Francisco's fans can only wonder if the 49ers are Super this season, whether the price they pay may be the head coach they have grown to adore.

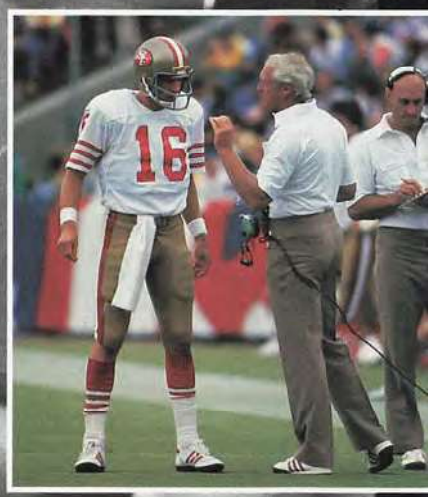
Yet the same combination of charm, wit, success and sarcasm that has won over the Bay Area, has aggravated and alienated many in pro football.

This is an industry filled with people who are consumed by their jobs, with coaches who have wanted to be coaches ever since they were players, or even before. For them, coaching is the rainbow they sought for so long and winning is the pot of gold.

But for Walsh, who loves country music and prefers to read anything but a playbook on his own time, football just happens to be the challenge that







gives him an outlet, a chance to express himself.

When interviewed by the *San Francisco Examiner*, Walsh explained his feeling about coaching when he first took the 49ers job. "If I were not coaching—now we're talking fantasies—I would be the lead guitar for John Stewart or Willie Nelson. Somebody like that. And I don't play guitar. The point is, those are the kinds of things that provide a certain emotion to your life. There has to be some esthetic expression in your life."

And therein lies the answer to the mystery of the man and the coach. In approach, temperament and results, Walsh is an artist. Football is his medium. Coaching is his easel . . . for now.

"Coaching takes its toll on me," he says. "I don't expect to coach as long as Paul Brown did or others. I am the president of the organization, the chief operating officer. I can work toward maintaining a championship team without having a desperate feeling that I must be the head coach.

"I don't have a tremendous thirst to be in some form of Hall of Fame or on some list of the most winning coaches. Those things are superfluous to me."

This artist perceives his job as a responsibility that must be approached with order rather than passion and desire.

Ask Walsh to describe himself and he will say he is a football technician who built his reputation by mastering the technical aspects of the game. You run your pattern this far—not this far—to get optimum results.

Yes, he paints his masterpieces with precision and pride. And, although he might not admit it, he takes failure personally. If a fumble or an interception smudges his work of art, he finds it difficult to accept the indelible result—a loss.

Walsh recognizes his uniqueness. But more important, he recognizes what is necessary to succeed, even if it is a certain sameness with other successful coaches.

"You need a personality that is expressive and can exchange with people easily," he begins. "We all have a sense of humor and it doesn't bother me to be the point of that humor. You see all kinds of coaches, from the hard-liners to the soft-spoken.

"But the bottom line, as far as players are concerned, is: 'is the coach competent?' "

It didn't take 49ers players long to appreciate Walsh's competence or his sense of humor. Quarterback Joe Montana recalled one of his first team meetings with Walsh. "We were 2-14 and then he came in and said, 'I don't want anyone to think about job security in this organization.' He had on a coat and a taxi hat. He said, 'But in case anyone needs a ride to the airport after practice, I've got my hack parked just outside.' He does things like that to keep everyone at ease."

"Basically, I have two strengths," Walsh said. "One is my ability to exchange with people. The other is an artistic feeling about football."

And San Francisco's football fans and players are glad that he is back for at least one more season in the guise of president and head coach. They want their favorite artist to create one more Super masterpiece. ●

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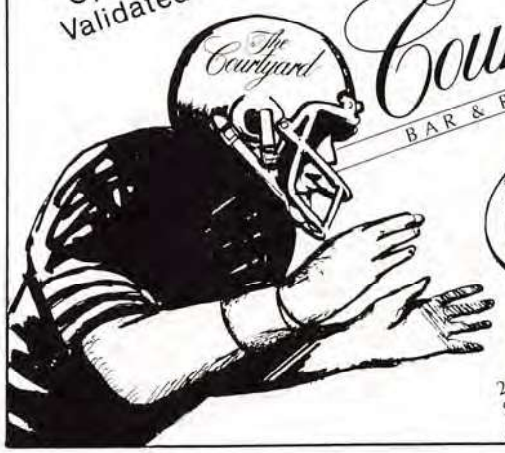

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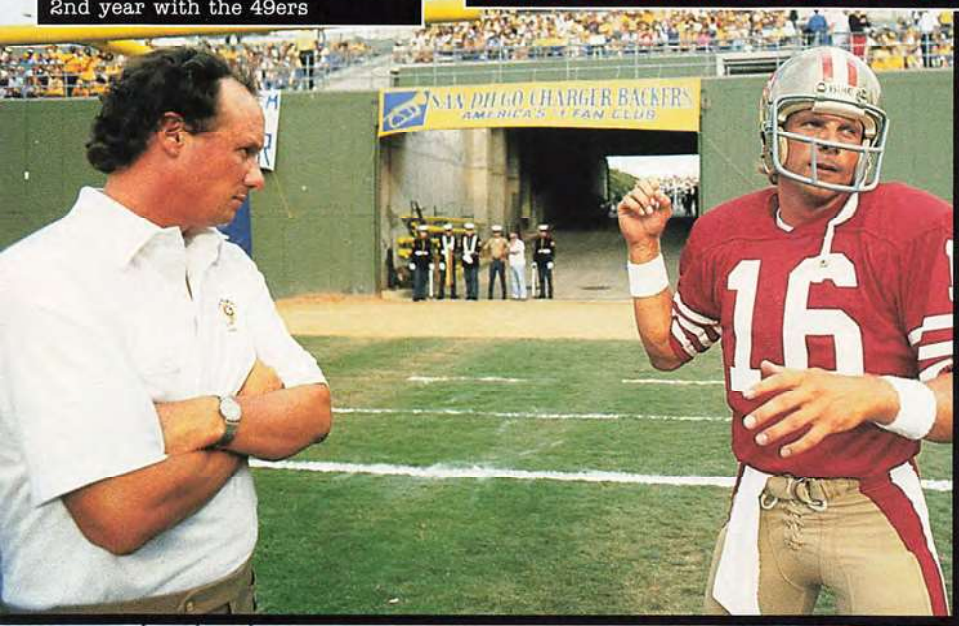
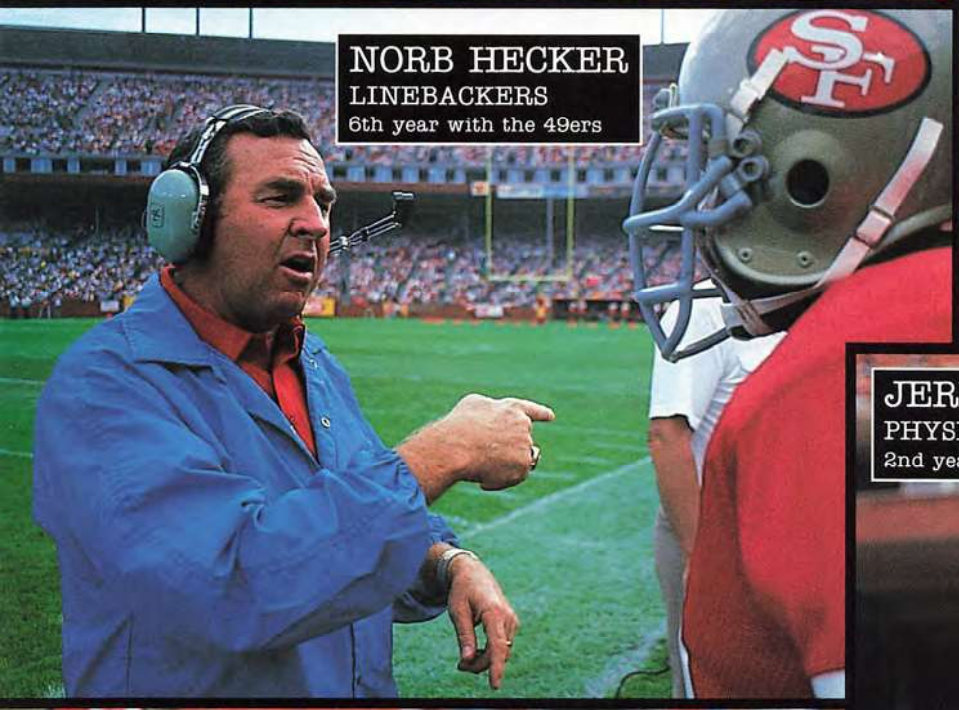
The Assistant Coaches

PAUL HACKETT
QUARTERBACKS/RECEIVERS
2nd year with the 49ers

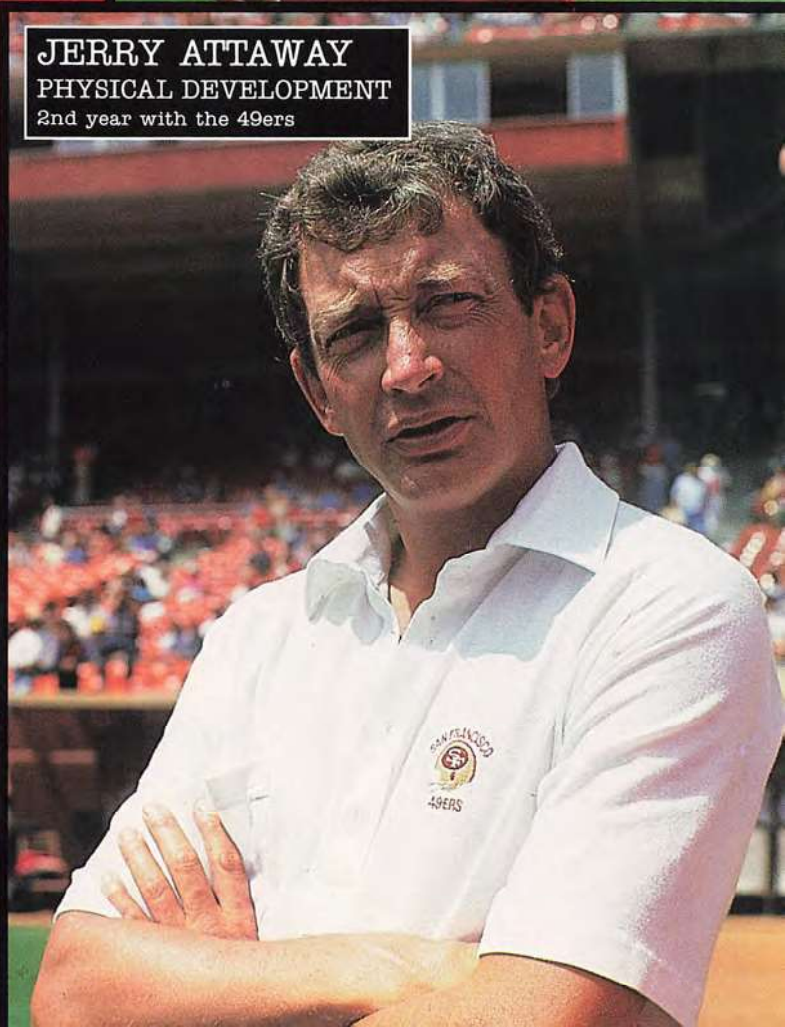


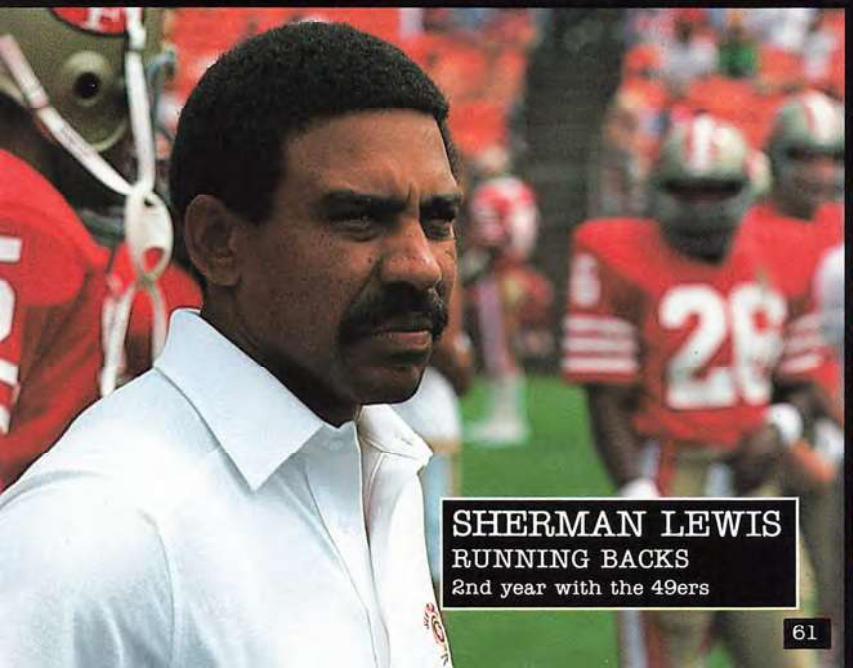
GEORGE SEIFERT
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR
5th year with the 49ers

NORB HECKER
LINEBACKERS
6th year with the 49ers



JERRY ATTAWAY
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT
2nd year with the 49ers

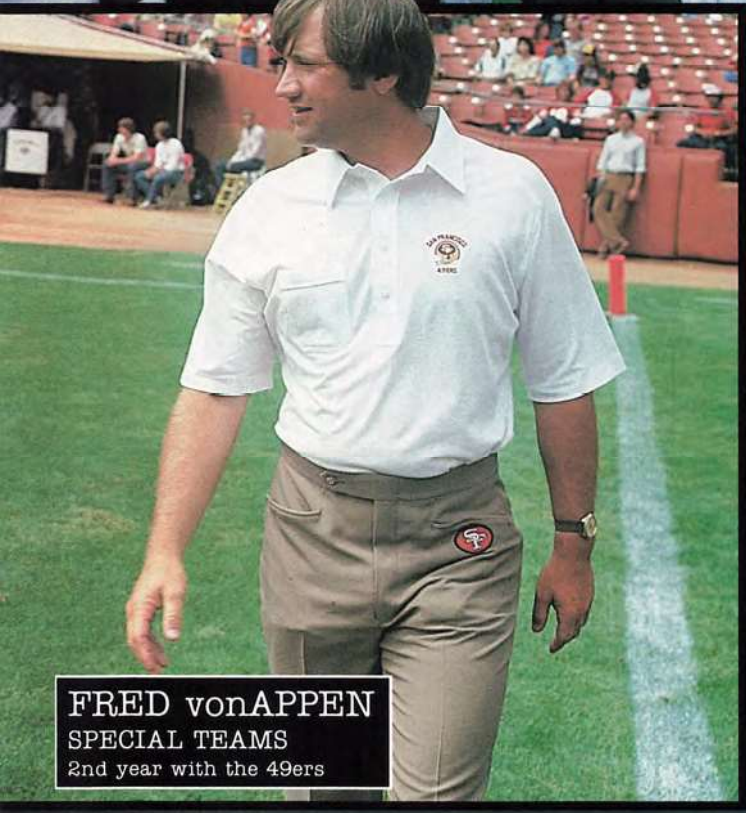




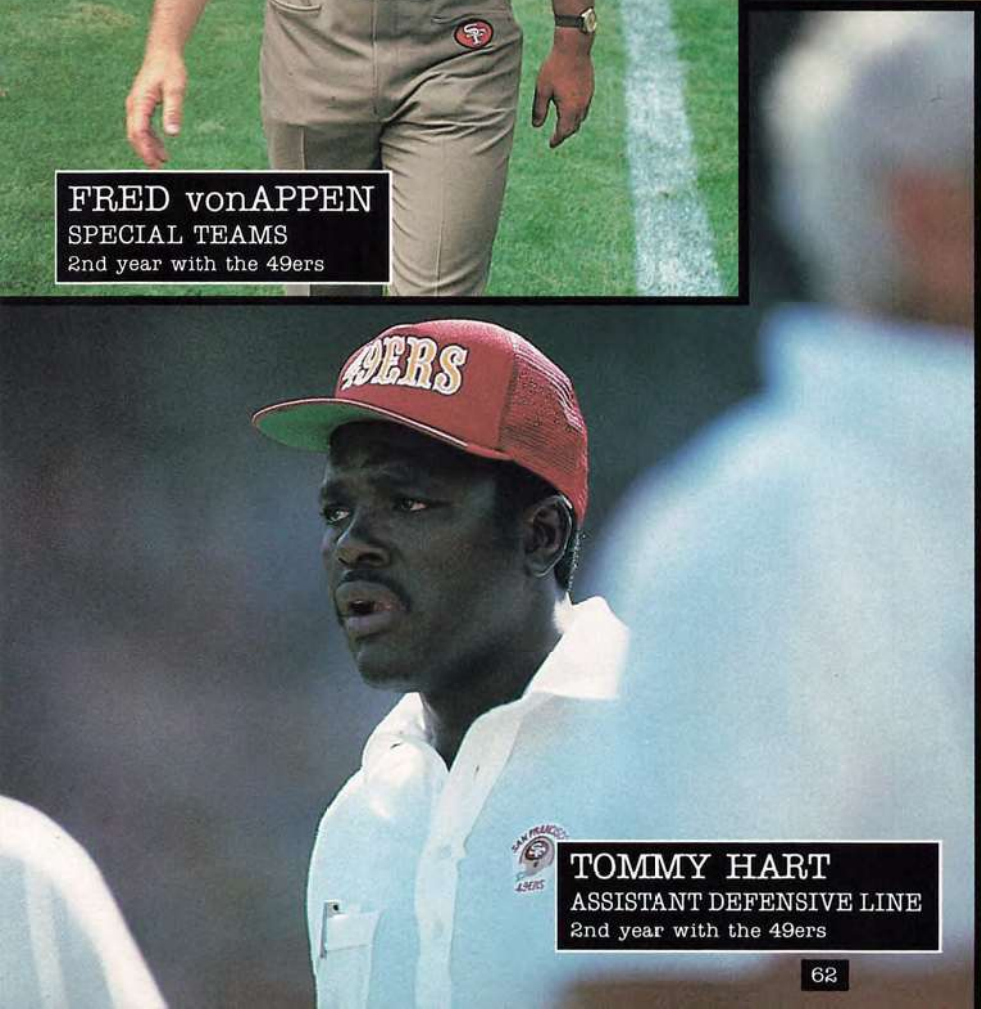
SHERMAN LEWIS
RUNNING BACKS
2nd year with the 49ers

The Assistant Coaches

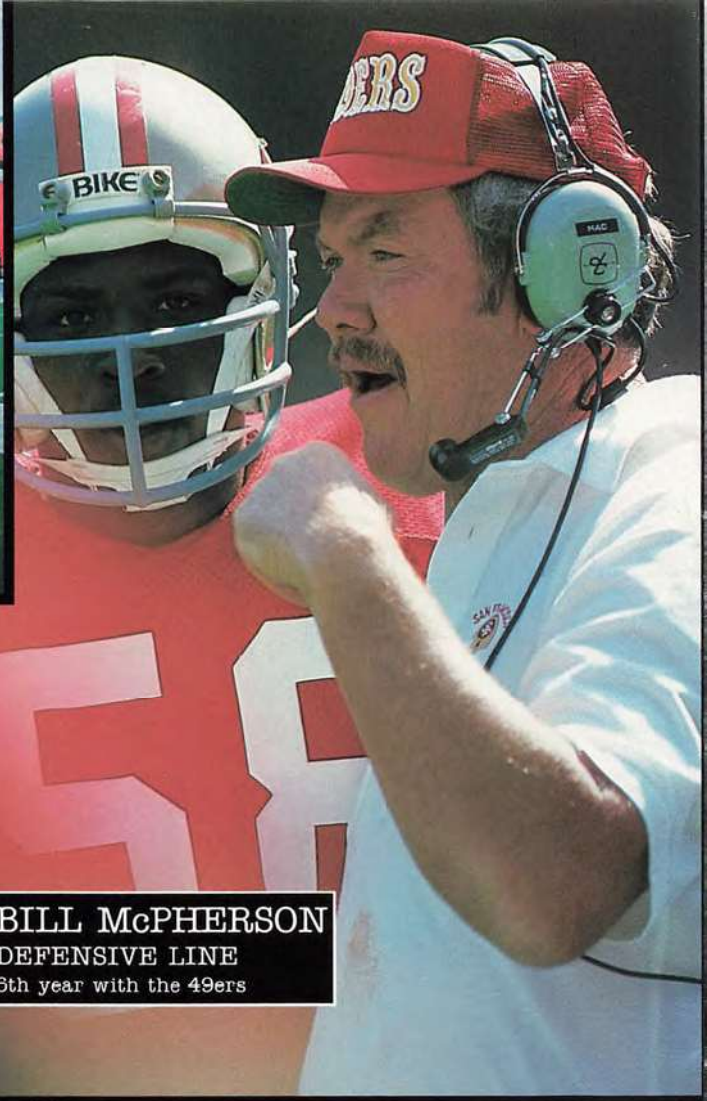
BOBB McKITTRICK
OFFENSIVE LINE
6th year with the 49ers



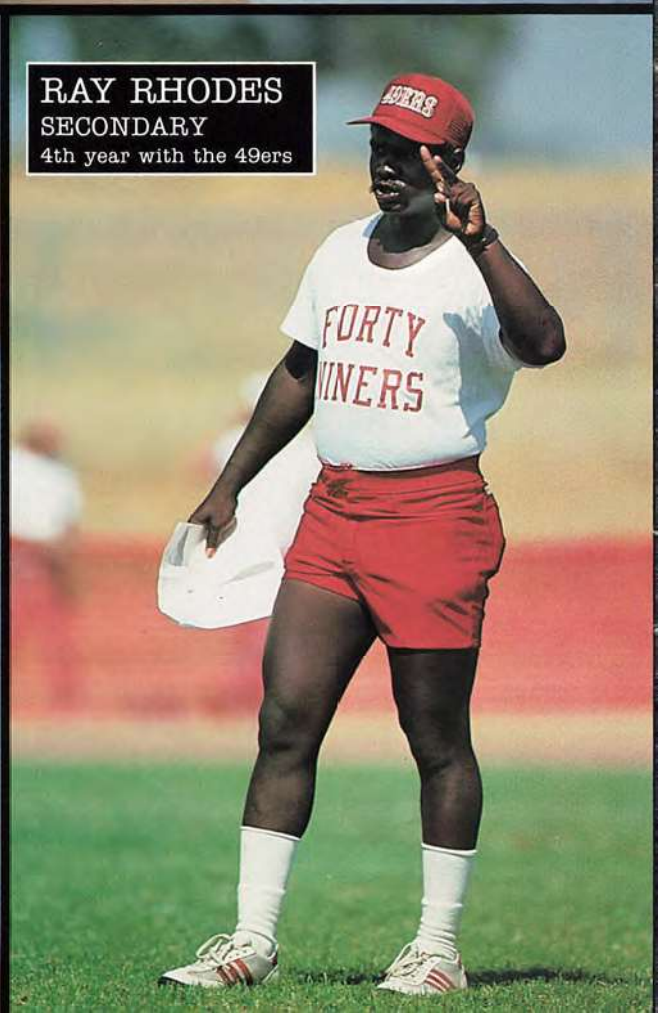
FRED vonAPPEN
SPECIAL TEAMS
2nd year with the 49ers



TOMMY HART
ASSISTANT DEFENSIVE LINE
2nd year with the 49ers



BILL McPHERSON
DEFENSIVE LINE
6th year with the 49ers



RAY RHODES
SECONDARY
4th year with the 49ers

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—Bill Madden, *THE SPORTING NEWS*

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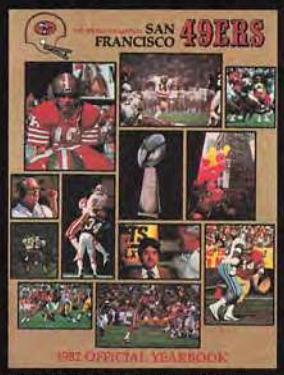
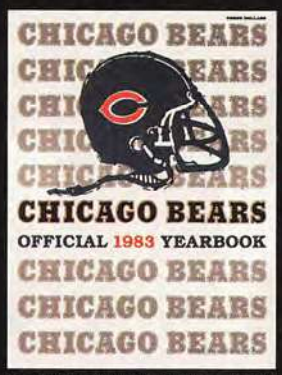


12. 1982 S.F. 49ers $4.00



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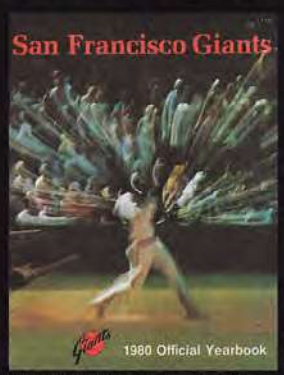
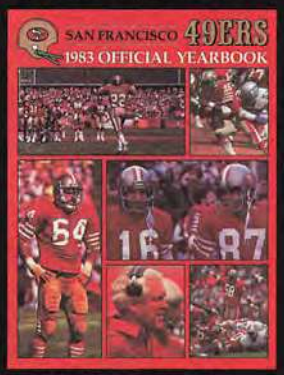


15. 1980 S.F. Giants $3.00

16. 1982 S.D. Padres $3.00



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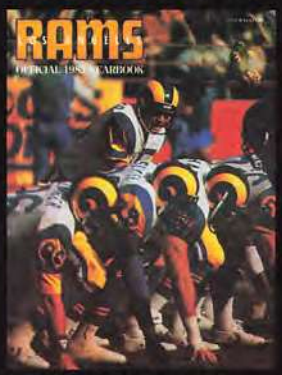

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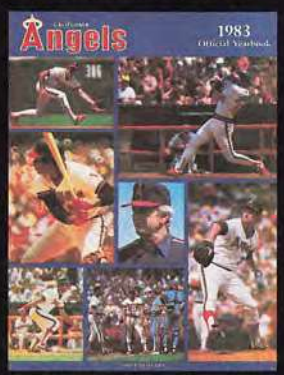

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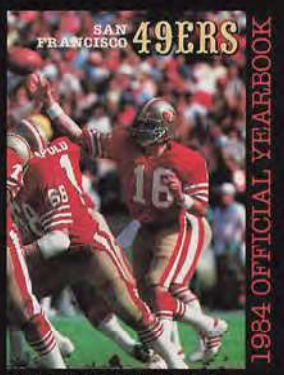

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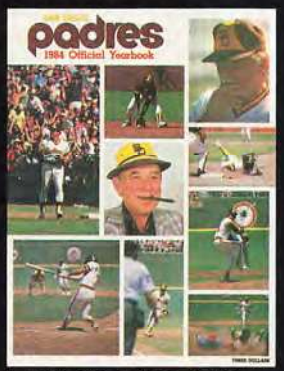

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Edward J. DeBartolo

A New Aggressive Attitude in 1984

"That talk about conflict was malarkey, but I could see a need to keep peace in our league during these testy times."

Like anyone who is successful in football, San Francisco 49ers owner Edward J. DeBartolo Jr. has learned from his mistakes.

And although at age 37 DeBartolo is the youngest owner in the National Football League, he has already graduated with honors from a mistake-ridden beginning to the heights of success.

Each year, it seems, DeBartolo and the 49ers are confronted by new and often unique challenges. It has been DeBartolo's ever-improving ability to meet these challenges which has helped transform the 49ers into a major force in the NFL.

Last year the 49ers were challenged by the NFL itself because DeBartolo's father owned a team in the United States Football League. This was characterized by some as a "conflict of interest."

This year DeBartolo answered that challenge in a cool, business-like way. At the NFL owners' meetings in March he presented a plan which eased the minds of his peers, a plan which, among other things, (1) prevented the 49ers from drafting or signing anyone drafted or signed by his father's team; (2) excluded the 49ers from committees dealing with the USFL; and (3) ended the 49ers association in NFL scouting combines.

"That talk about conflict was malarkey, but I could see a need to keep peace in our league during these testy times," DeBartolo said.

Then the 49ers had to deal with the spectre of the USFL itself. First the new league raided the 49ers for three top players, including two starters. Then came the inevitable salary war.

Again the 49ers took the initiative, making a strong move to sign their draftees, re-sign numerous veterans and pay the price for needed players in trades.

They had lost their standout starting nose tackle, Pete Kugler, to the USFL in February. Within a few weeks, the 49ers had outlined and begun to implement a new, aggressive policy toward securing players. By the time training camp opened, the 49ers were one of the few NFL teams that had signed all available draftees. Only fifth-round pick, Michael Carter, was unsigned because he was in the Olympics.

They signed first-round draftee Todd Shell to a $2 million, four-year contract; USFL jumpee Jim Fahnhorst to a $1.545 million, four-year contract; and they traded for potential starting nose tackle Manu Tuiasosopo, a six-year veteran with a hefty price tag.

DeBartolo explains that these and other moves were part of the organization's new plan.

"Back in March we set some different goals for the ball club," he said. "Our decision wasn't so much to set our goals higher with renumeration as it was that maybe we should have a little different attitude. We became a little more aggressive.

"Yes, maybe it had something to do with losing Kugler, but not entirely. Look, the USFL has caused salaries to jump about 35 percent. So if our salaries were $10 million, then we are losing $3.5 million.

"But you can't sit back and complain about it and become a losing franchise in the process. You have to compete. That's what we are doing."

The result has been more talent on the field and less money in the bank. In fact, DeBartolo projects a loss for the 49ers in 1984.

"I expect us to do well this year on the field because we have done everything we can to put together the best team we can," he said.

"But in doing so we have assured ourselves of losing money. Sure I care about losing money. But I care about winning and keeping everyone in this organization as content as possible."

DeBartolo's counter-attack on the USFL reflects his aggressive, big business background. He was formerly president of the Edward J. DeBartolo Corporation of Youngstown, Ohio. Founded in 1948 by his father, the DeBartolo Corporation is one of America's biggest business success stories, as a planner, builder, owner and operator of regional shopping malls all over the world. Company holdings also include office complexes, hotels, banks, gas wells, orange groves, real estate and some of America's top thoroughbred race tracks, including Louisiana Downs in Shreveport. The DeBartolos also own the Pittsburgh Penguins of the National Hockey League, the Pittsburgh Spirit indoor soccer team and the Pittsburgh Civic Arena.

So it was from this family background that Eddie grew, learning about the rigors of business from the bottom—when he worked at age 12 shoveling snow at mall construction sites—to the top, where his executive decisions have helped make the 49ers a success.

But DeBartolo would be the first to admit his decisions have not always spelled success for the 49ers. In fact, after taking over as owner in 1977, his first move was to bring in general manager Joe Thomas, who proceeded to turn a mediocre team into a bad one and alienate fans and media.

On Jan. 9, 1979, DeBartolo owned up to that big mistake and made the best executive decision in the history of the 49ers franchise. He hired Bill Walsh to take over as head coach and general manager.

"I was wrong with Joe Thomas from the beginning," DeBartolo admitted, showing a combination of candor and humility rarely found in top level executives. "Joe was never able to act in any way that was consistent. He never acted like we expect a member of management to act. Worse, our image and status in the community suffered. Both my family's and the 49ers'."

The hiring of Walsh was only one indication that DeBartolo was on the verge of treating his football team as something other than just another facet of his conglomerate. Little by little, DeBartolo has warmed up to his team with an affection rarely seen in the business world.

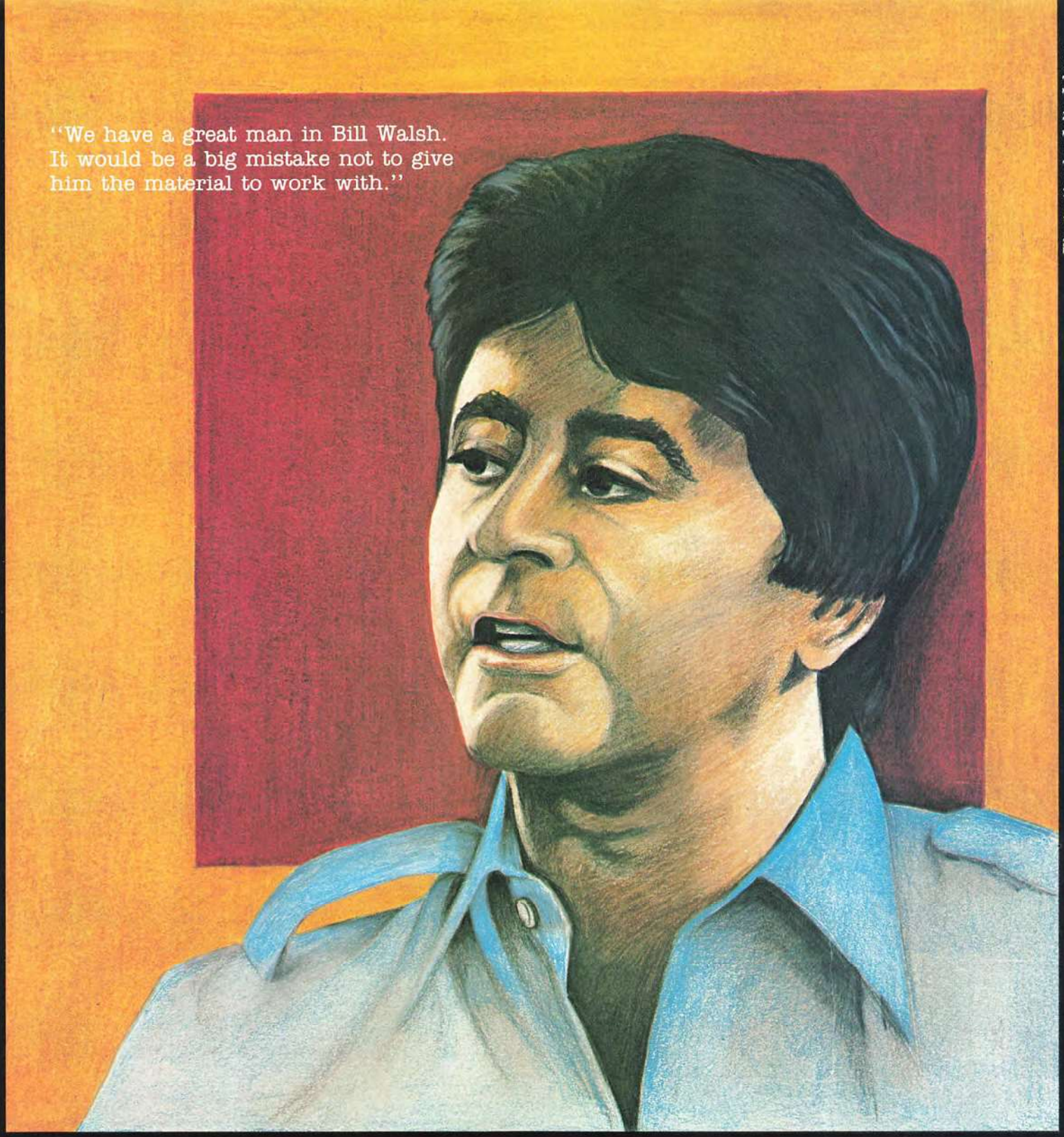

Illustration by Julie Johans

His family—wife Cynthia, who prefers to be called Candy, and daughters Marie, Tiffanie Lynn and Nicole Ann—and friends from DeBartolo's hometown began to visit the Bay Area regularly.

"I've fallen in love with the Bay Area," DeBartolo said. "I would like my daughters to attend college here, hopefully Stanford."

On the field, the 49ers under Walsh improved slowly at first with a pair of 2-14 seasons followed by a 6-10 campaign. Then came the 13-3 team which won Super Bowl XVI.

After a dip to 3-6 during the strike-marred 1982 season, the 49ers returned to respectability last season with a 10-6 mark and missed the Super Bowl in a controversy-plagued NFC championship loss to the Washington Redskins, 24-21.

"Yes, we came back well last season and maybe that would satisfy some owners," DeBartolo said. "Maybe some would think their team had spent enough because they were strong enough to be in the playoffs.

"But that would be a mistake. We have a great man in Bill Walsh. It would be a big mistake not to give him the material to work with. I know I've made a lot of mistakes already here. I know I'll make some more. But that is one I will not make." ●

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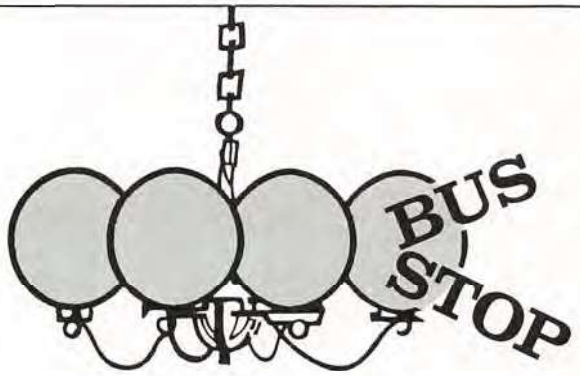

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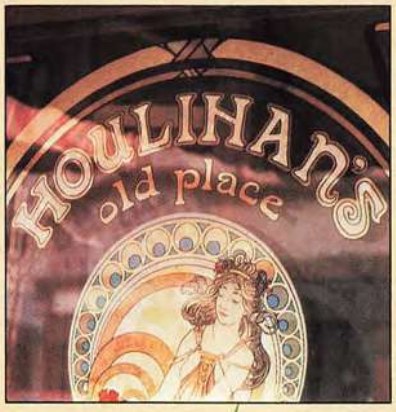

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The 49ers: A Contender Once Again

In many ways, the San Francisco 49ers' 1983 season was much like the hilly city the team represents—up and down, up and down.

It was at once a rewarding and a cruel season which may have been capsulized in that unforgettable 24-21 loss in the NFC championship to the Washington Redskins.

That is where it all ended, one step from the Super Bowl itself.

In that game, the 49ers squandered their first ten possessions before exploding for 21 points in the fourth quarter. It was a Jekyll and Hyde performance reminiscent of the entire season.

This was a team which looked dominant while winning six of its games by 15 or more points. But it was also a team which had four losses within five weeks.

Still, it added up to a 10-6 record which was the third best regular season total in the franchise's history. And they won their second NFC Western Division championship in three years. The 49ers were not Super. But they were close.

"It was a crucial season for us, one in which we had to be successful," team president and head coach Bill Walsh said.

Indeed, it was a season of validation for the 49ers. In 1981 they went 13-3 in the regular season on the way to a Super Bowl XVI championship. In the strike-marred 1982 season, however, they slipped to 3-6 and missed the playoffs.

That plunge was so disheartening that Walsh almost stepped down from his position as head coach. But he stayed and helped answer some critical questions.

Were the 49ers really as good as they appeared in 1981? Or were they merely a flukey flash followed by an inevitable fizzle?

So it was that in 1983 the 49ers validated their credibility as one of the best teams in the National Football League. They did it dramatically and emphatically, setting eleven single season team and nine individual records.

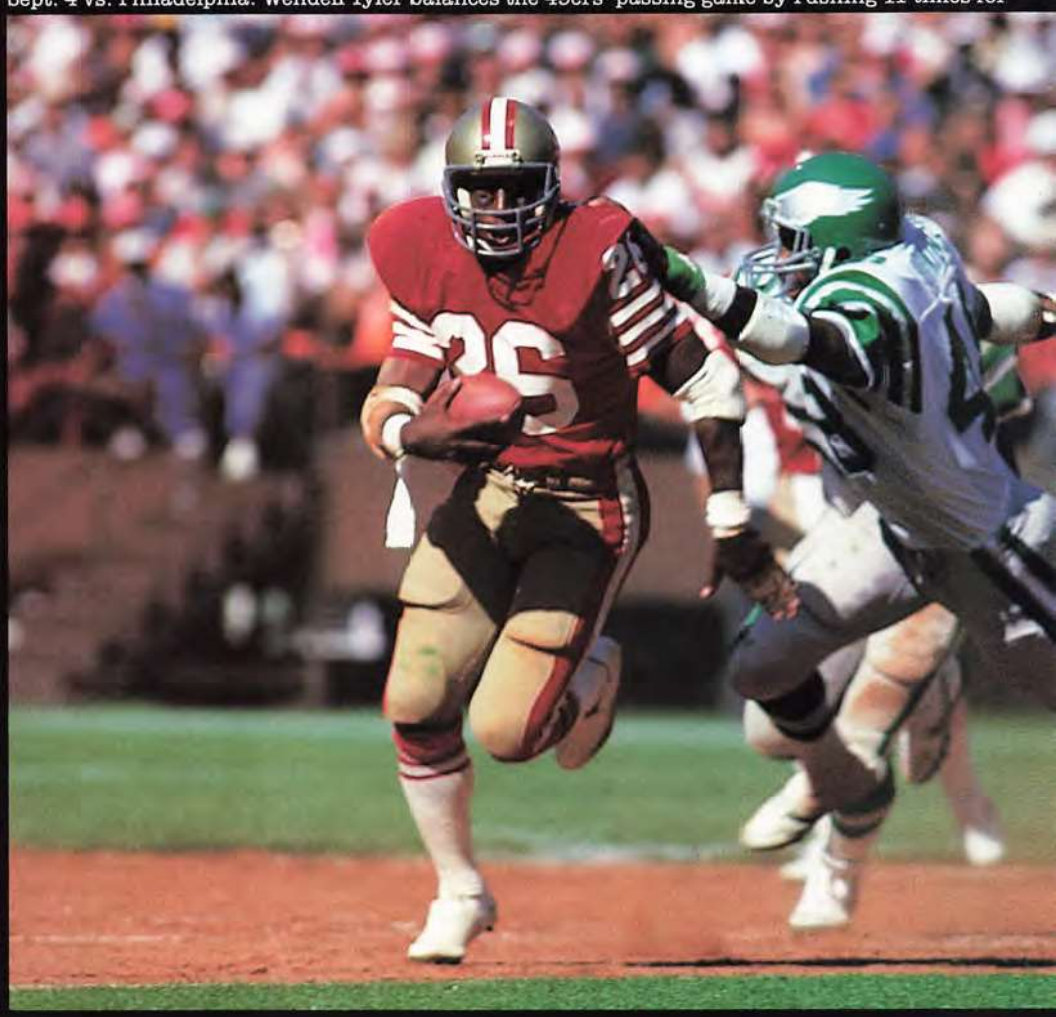
The 1983 team was exciting by land as well as by air, thanks to the infusion of two new players who quickly ran their way into the 49ers record book.

Rookie fullback Roger Craig teamed with newly-acquired halfback Wendell Tyler to gain 1,681 yards, making them the fourth best rushing tandem in club history.

Quarterback Joe Montana set a team record with 3,910 yards passing while becoming the No. 1 rated passer in NFL history. And when the 49ers couldn't run or pass for a score, they turned to kicker Ray Wersching, who converted 20 of 24 field goal tries and set a single season record with 126 points. On defense, pass-rush artist Fred Dean set a club record with 17½ sacks, tops in the NFC. Dwaine Board added 13 sacks and cornerback Eric Wright grabbed seven interceptions, returning two for touchdowns.

"There were times last season when we played better than ever, including 1981," Walsh said. "And of course, there were times when we did not play well enough. But overall, it was a good year in which we hopefully stabilized our organization."

Sept. 4 vs. Philadelphia: Wendell Tyler balances the 49ers' passing game by rushing 11 times for



Coach Bill Walsh said of the 1983 season, "Of course I wasn't totally satisfied because of the way it ended. But all in all, I think we gave our fans an exciting season, one worth remembering."

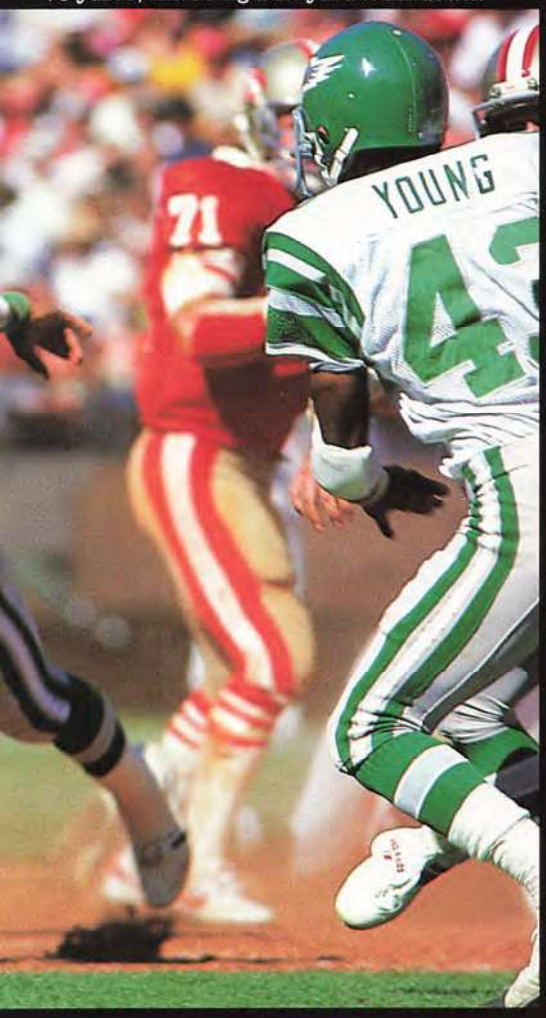
Philadelphia 28, San Francisco 17: In the season opener at Candlestick Park, the 49ers pleased 55,775 fans with the new run-and-pass offense, but disappointed them with key turnovers and a crucial penalty.

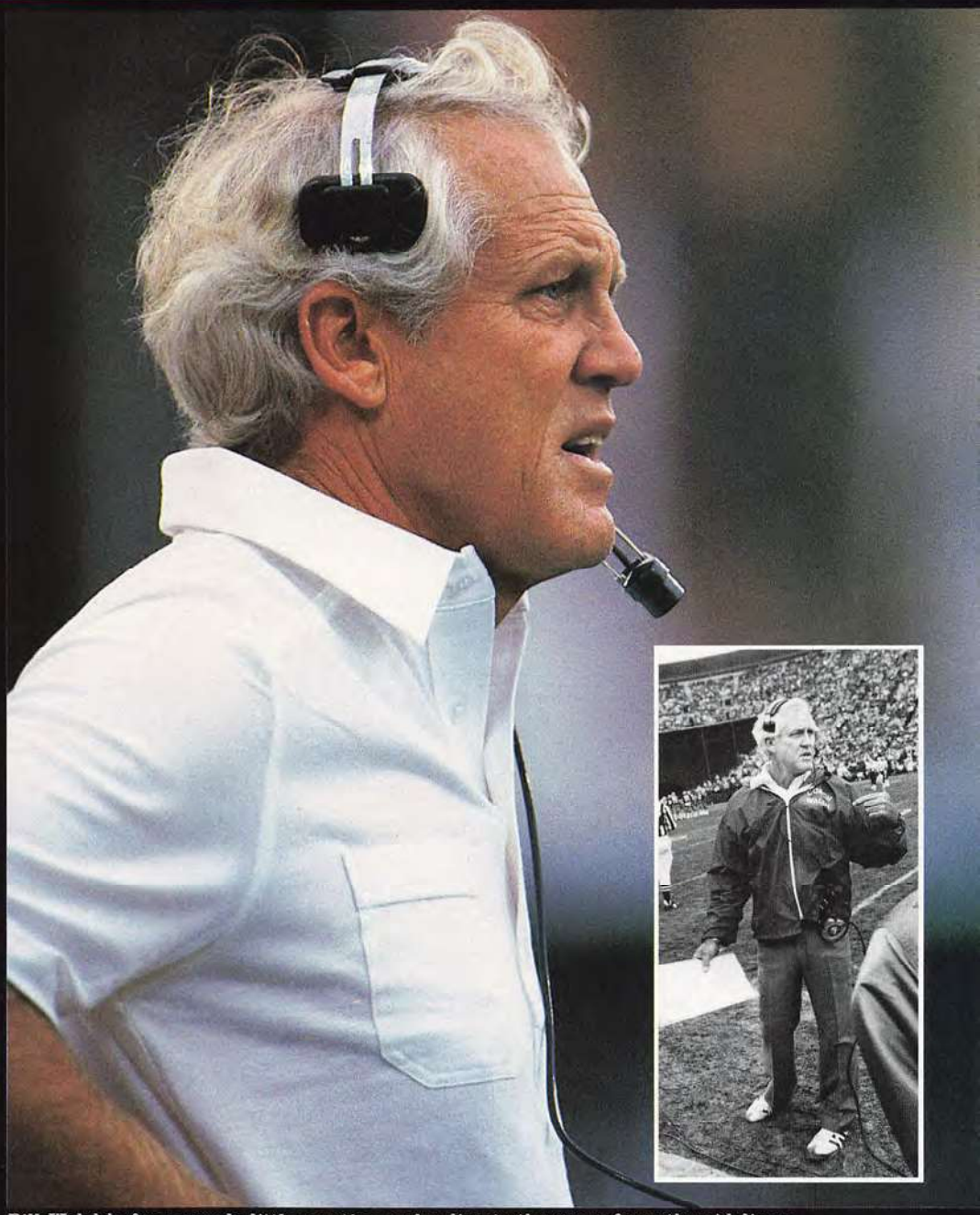
Wendell Tyler demonstrated he could balance the 49ers' famed passing game by rushing 11 times for 73 yards, including a 32-yard touchdown. But with 1:19 left he fumbled the ball into the end zone from inside the 10.

With 11 seconds left, backup quarterback Guy Benjamin—subbing for a woozy Montana—connected with Dwight Clark for an apparent touchdown. But it was nullified when Randy Cross was called for holding, an infraction he adamantly insisted he did not commit.

On the positive side, Benjamin and fullback-turned-tight end Earl Cooper

73 yards, including a 32-yard touchdown.





Bill Walsh's face reveals little emotion as he directs the game from the sidelines.

hooked up for a 73-yard touchdown; Fred Dean, playing as an outside linebacker at times, had eight tackles and one sack; and Tyler and Roger Craig rushed for 125 yards—when they held onto the ball.

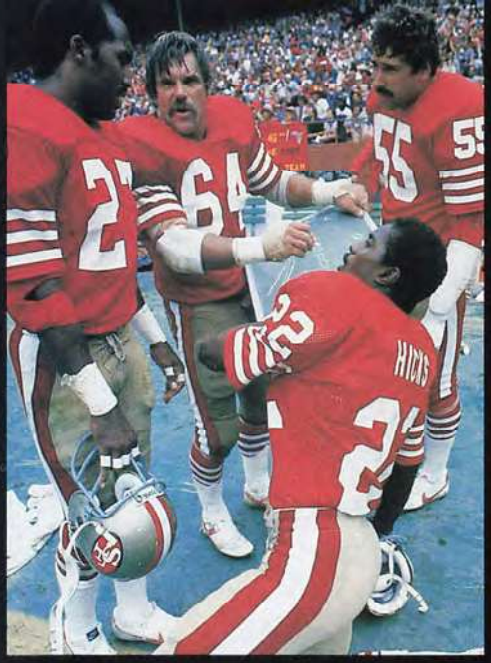
San Francisco 48, Minnesota 17: Everything went Wright in this one as the 49ers made a nickel look like a million bucks.

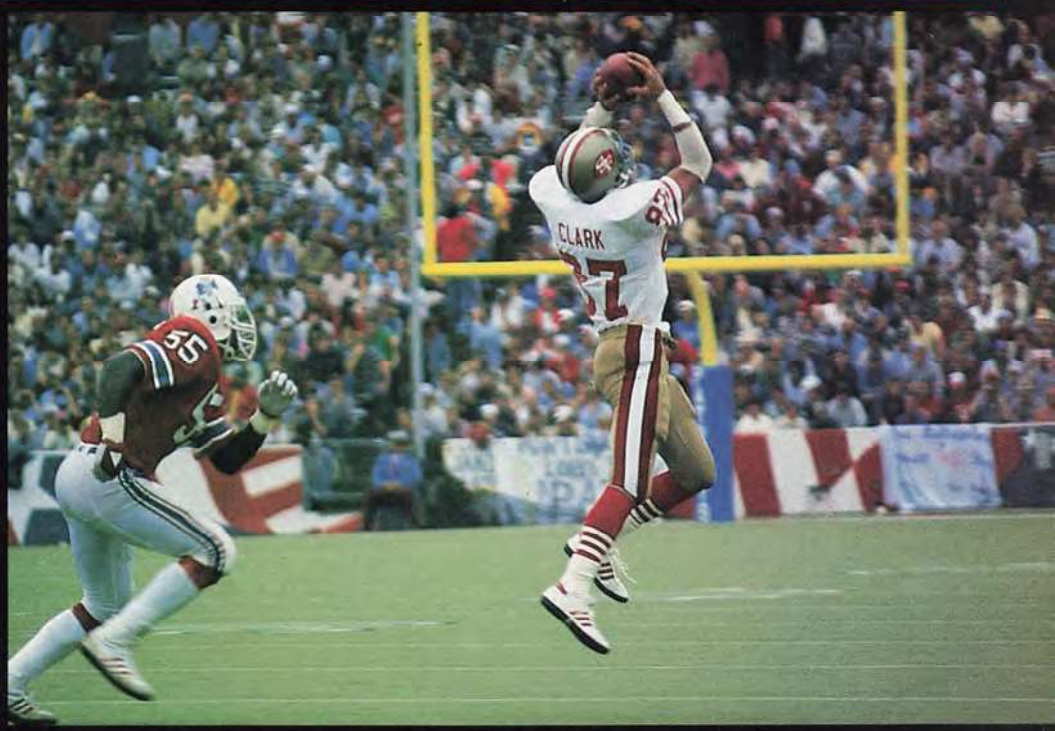
They threw that nickel—a five-defensive back alignment—and hit their biggest jackpot since Super Bowl XVI with a team victory Walsh rated his "best ever."

Cornerback Eric Wright picked off three interceptions, including one he returned 60 yards for a touchdown. In all, the 49ers snagged six turnovers and, within the frantic span of 1:44 early in the second quarter, converted three into touchdowns.

Montana was 17 of 24 for 230 yards and four touchdowns, and Tyler became the first 49er to rush at least 100 yards in a game since 1980, with 107 yards on 19 carries.

The running and passing games were aided by an outstanding job from the offensive line. Right tackle Keith Fahnhorst, a graduate of University of Minnesota, celebrated his Minneapolis appearance by shutting out defensive end Doug Martin—no tackles, assists, or sacks.





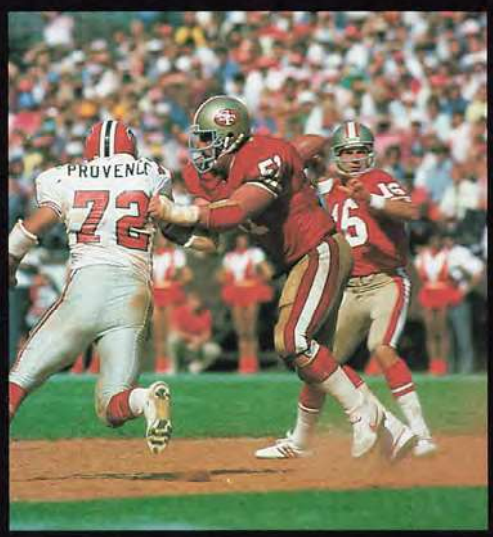
San Francisco 42, St. Louis 27: Playing in 110 degree weather, the 49ers were just too hot to handle in St. Louis as they cooked up their biggest batch of points in back-to-back games in 20 years.

Montana sizzled for 341 yards and three touchdowns through the air, but 49ers fans were probably even more delighted to see the rushing game total 191 yards.

That gave the 49ers 514 yards rushing in three games, a total it took eight games to reach in 1982.

San Francisco 24, Atlanta 20: After six straight home losses, this was the 49ers' first win at Candlestick since their historic 1981 season NFC championship victory over Dallas.

And the come-from-behind triumph was reminiscent of that great title game in many ways.



Despite the absence of Tyler—who was injured and would miss two games—the 49ers rushed on seven of their 10 plays in the game-winning drive.

The defense registered three of its eight sacks in the final minutes and backup runners Jeff Moore and Bill Ring ran out the clock behind an offensive line that played its third consecutive outstanding game.

San Francisco 33, New England 13: Ray Wersching bailed out a limping offense with field goals of 45, 35, 36, and 24 yards as the 49ers could not get a touchdown on six consecutive trips in-

Top left: 49ers defense in sideline meeting; Top: Clark catches vs. New England, Oct. 2; Above left: Cross pass-protects for Montana; Left: 49ers defense contributes to victory over Falcons, Sept. 25; Above: Half-time at New England, Oct. 2. Opp. page, top: Francis is tackled after catching pass vs. New England; Far right: Ring is stopped by Rams secondary, Oct. 9; Right: 49ers offensive line blocks for Craig.

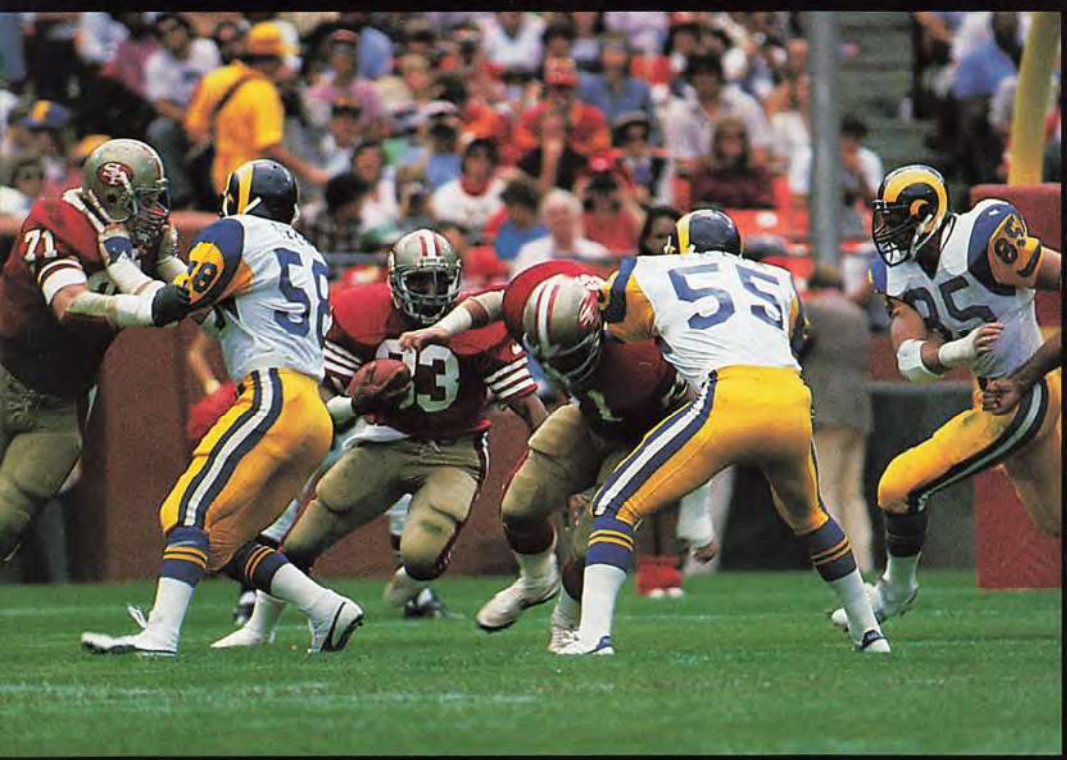
side the 30, including five beyond the 20.

It was a costly victory which left Bill Ring as the only healthy 49er running back, necessitating the re-signing of fullback Vince Williams immediately after the game.

Veteran linebacker Jack Reynolds led a defense which held the NFL's No. 2 rushing attack to only 75 yards, forcing the Patriots to abandon their game plan and go to the air.

Los Angeles 10, San Francisco 7: This game closed with the same ugly ending as the previous season's meeting with the Rams—a Wersching field goal blocked by Ivory Sully.

In 1982, the 49ers' playoff hopes ended when Sully blocked a 24-yard Wersching attempt on the last play. This time, the Rams Sully-d Wersching's 51-yard shot. "It felt good, I'm sure it would have gone through," Wersching said.



Fumbles and injuries also took their toll. Tight ends Russ Francis and Eason Ramson each fumbled inside the Rams' 20-yard line and Montana bobbled away a snap as the 49ers failed to score the first ten times they had the ball.

Without Tyler, the 49ers had an unbalanced offense which rushed for only 78 yards, although Montana was 28 of 42 for 316 air yards. With cornerback Ronnie Lott and strong safety Carlton Williamson out, the 49ers utilized Tim Collier at corner and linebacker Bobby Leopold at safety.

Collier did well against the pass and Leopold was a major factor against the run. Still, Rams rookie sensation Eric Dickerson carried 22 times for 144 yards, including a 15-yard touchdown.

San Francisco 32, New Orleans 13: Although coaches get a kick from winning, Walsh was concerned after this game because he had to get a win from kicking.

Wersching became the first NFL kicker to go six-for-six on field goals in one game. He made shots of 23, 32, 47, 52, 24 and 23 yards to bail out a stuttering offense that finally scored a touchdown after Wersching had sealed the win.

Wersching's six field goals were one short of an NFL game record and made him 14 for 15 on the season, with the lone failure being the blocked kick against the Rams.

Highlights included a 62-yard interception return for a touchdown by Dwight Hicks on a pass that went astray when Lott blitzed and hit quarterback Ken Stabler, and Craig's 71-yard run, the longest by a 49er since 1977.

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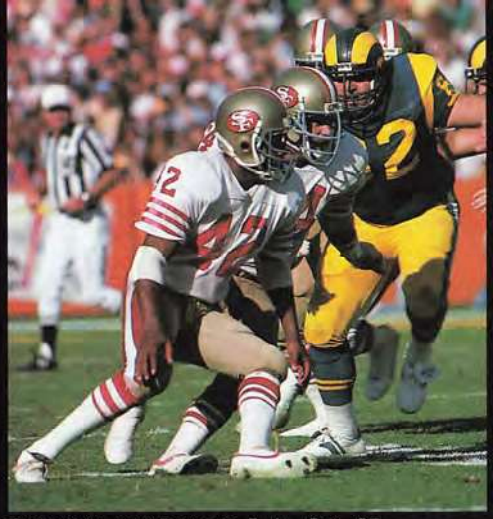
San Francisco 45, Los Angeles 35: In this outing, the 49ers overcame adversity aplenty—including a walkout by starting free safety/defensive captain Dwight Hicks—to show they had the mettle to be a playoff contender once again.

The Rams began a premature victory celebration when they went ahead by 35-24 with 8:51 left. Then . . .

7:51 left—Montana throws a 46-yard touchdown pass to Clark. Wersching's PAT makes it 35-31.

7:37 left—Dana McLemore tackles Robert Alexander on the Los Angeles eight on the ensuing kickoff.

6:40 left—Defensive lineman Dwaine Board takes the ball away from Rams quarterback Vince Ferragamo in the end zone for a touchdown that gives the 49ers the lead for the first time in the game, 38-35.



Reynolds and Lott vs. L.A., Oct. 23.

6:31 left—McLemore tackles returner Henry Ellard on the 12, setting the stage for the rest of the game to be played on the Rams' side of the field.

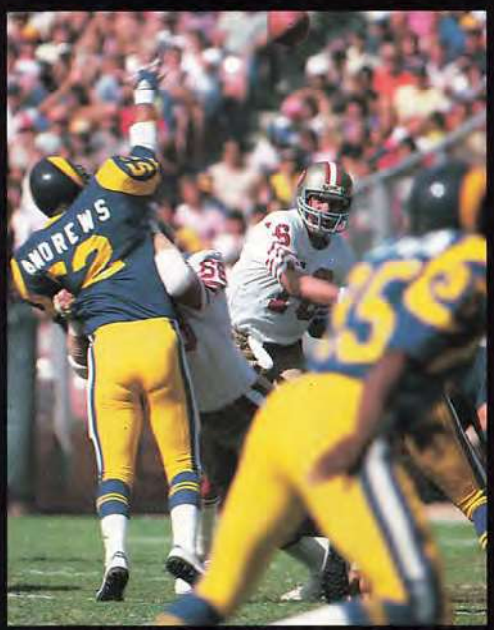
2:19 left—On punt coverage, McLemore tackles Johnnie Johnson on the Los Angeles 15.

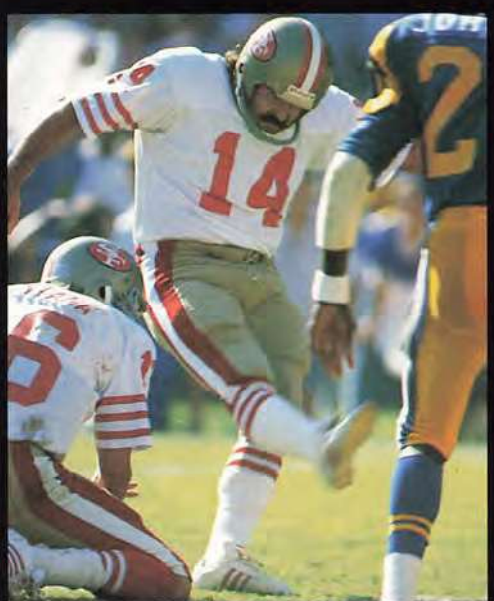
1:48 left—49ers linebacker Willie Harper intercepts a Ferragamo pass and returns it 37 yards to the seven.

57 seconds left—Fullback Bill Ring pounds into the end zone on third and goal from the four.

So it was that the 49ers used an interrelated three-ring circus—offense, defense and special teams—to spoil the Rams victory celebration.

With Hicks out, the 49ers brought strong safety Carlton Williamson off the injured list, and used him and Lott as blitzers. They responded with a total of 23 tackles.





Top: Montana passes; Above: Wersching kicks against the Rams, Oct. 23.

New York Jets 27, 49ers 13: It was the day to turn the clocks back, so the 49ers obliged. Goodbye daylight savings time. Goodbye rushing game.

They reverted to their 1982 running game—or lack of same—in the face of a tough defensive line that manhandled the 49ers offensive trenchmen.

Montana scrambled for 50 yards to boost the rushing total to 85 yards, with Craig going 8 for 27 yards and Tyler only 9 for 8.

"They just outblocked us up front and we couldn't do anything," said Walsh.

Walsh was questioned by runners and blockers for using only one trap block against the Jets' hard-rushing, four-man line. And the coach was second-guessed by many for trying a 46-yard field goal while trailing 20-13 with five minutes left, rather than go for a first down on fourth and six at the 28.

The only solace was that the Rams and Saints also lost, leaving the 49ers still atop the NFC-West by one game at 6-2.

Nehemiah catches pass during Jets game, Oct. 30.

Miami 20, San Francisco 17: With Montana's mobility hampered by a bruised thigh, the 49ers called on Craig to carry the offense in the final moments. So he carried on six of seven plays for gains of 15 and 2 yards and catches of 9, 10 and 12, making him so tired he went to the sidelines for oxygen. But he could no longer carry the offense, or even the ball.

On the next play Craig fumbled on the Miami 20 with 1:46 left, bobbling away the chance for a tying field goal. One last comeback try was nipped when Montana fumbled with 1:12 left.

On defense, Ronnie Lott had a difficult time with wide receiver Nat Moore, who caught six passes for 85 yards and two touchdowns.

Dean closes in on Dolphins QB.

The loss gave the 49ers a 6-4 record and a tie for first place with the Rams and the following week's opponent, the Saints.

San Francisco 27, New Orleans 0: Assistant coach Tommy Hart, usually not much of a talker, gave a little speech before the game. The last time he did that was in 1976 when he was a 49ers defensive end preparing to face the Rams. He accounted for six of the team's 10 sacks that day.

Results were similar on this day, as Dean tied Hart's record with six sacks as the 49ers collected nine. The Saints crossed midfield only twice in the game.

This was the 49ers' second Candlestick victory in 11 tries, a win aided by a rain-slicked surface which made the 49ers offense's misdirection plays more effective.

Below: Ring breaks tackle; Bottom: Paris, Ayers and Craig block for Tyler vs. Saints, Nov. 13.

Atlanta 28, San Francisco 24: "I have never experienced a loss as deflating as that one," said 49er eight-year veteran guard Randy Cross. "It just takes the life right out of you."

The 49ers were drained of life, and victory, on the final play of the game—a 47-yard ricochet touchdown pass from Steve Bartkowski that eventually wound up with Billy "White Shoes" Johnson.

The Falcons called it "Freeze Right Slot Option Left Rocket." The generic name is "Hail Mary." Walsh had his own title.

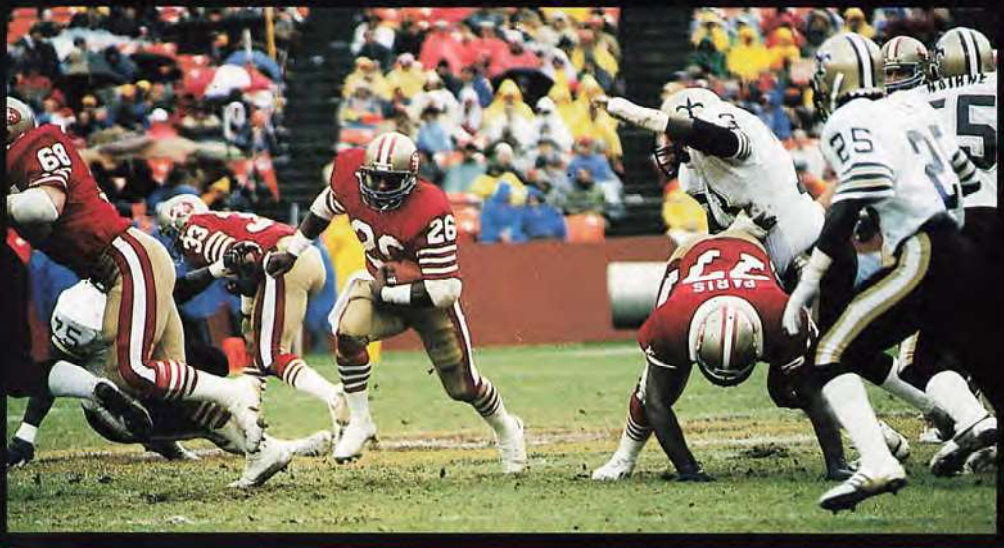
"It was a catastrophe," he said. "We are a team of character that has bounced back from tough things, but this was totally out of the ordinary. You can't blame a coach. You can't blame a player. You can't blame anybody. You just have to move on."

Chicago 13, San Francisco 3: Bears head coach Mike Ditka carefully computed what he said were "49er tendencies" and devised a defensive alignment called the "Flop."

And that's precisely what the 49ers did—flop. They couldn't run when they wanted to or find time to pass when they needed to. Consequently, they didn't win when they had to and found themselves at 7-4, one game behind the Rams.

The 49ers traveled beyond the Bears' 35-yard line only twice—when Wersching kicked a 24-yard field goal and when Tyler lost a fumble on the one-yard line with 11 seconds left in the first half. Tyler lost another fumble in the third quarter and was benched for the rest of the game.

This marked the first time the 49ers were held without a touchdown since a 15-12 loss to Cleveland on Dec. 6, 1981.



McLemore returns punt vs. Chicago, Nov. 27.

It was their lowest score in 98 games, dating back to a 7-0 shutout by Atlanta on Oct. 9, 1977.

It was the third time in five games that the offensive line, which played so brilliantly early in the season, was manhandled. Only a courageous performance by the defense prevented the score from reflecting the magnitude of the embarrassment.

Craig turns upfield after catching pass against Tampa Bay, Dec. 4.

San Francisco 35, Tampa Bay 21: It was a goat-to-hero day for Tyler and the offensive line, especially for guard Randy Cross.

Cross, who had been criticized for his play against Chicago, opened "Highway 51" so Tyler could travel 102 yards and rookie fullback Roger Craig could score three touchdowns on runs of 10, 1 and 14 yards.

"Guards John Ayers and Randy Cross and center Fred Quillan didn't open holes, they created pastures," said Craig.

So a team that tippy-toed for 72 yards the previous week ran for 227 yards . . . and all the way back into a first place tie with the Rams at 8-6.

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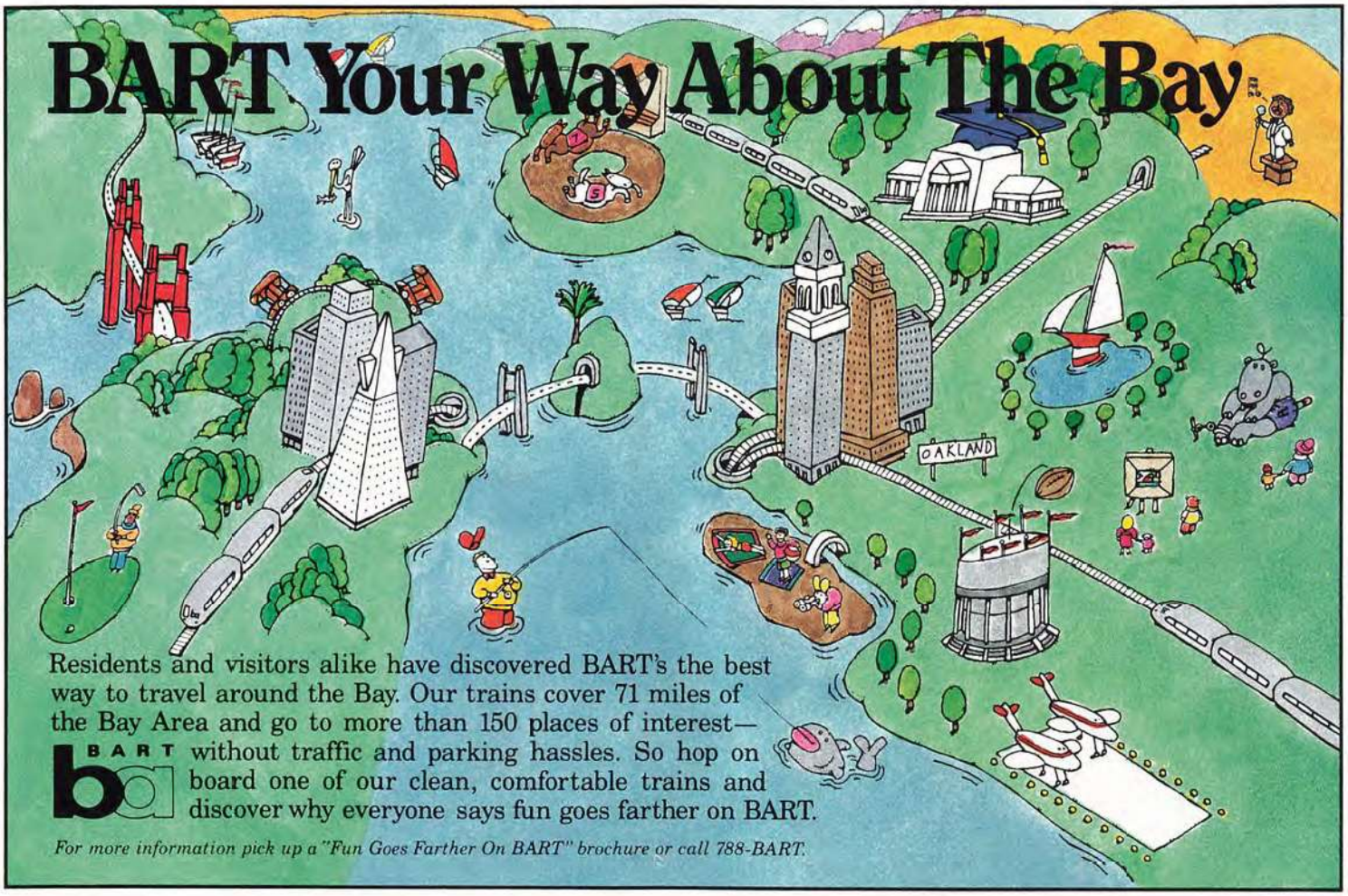

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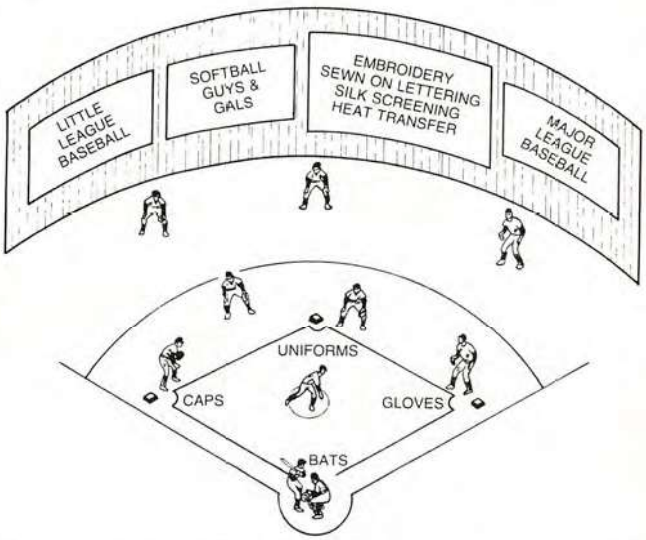

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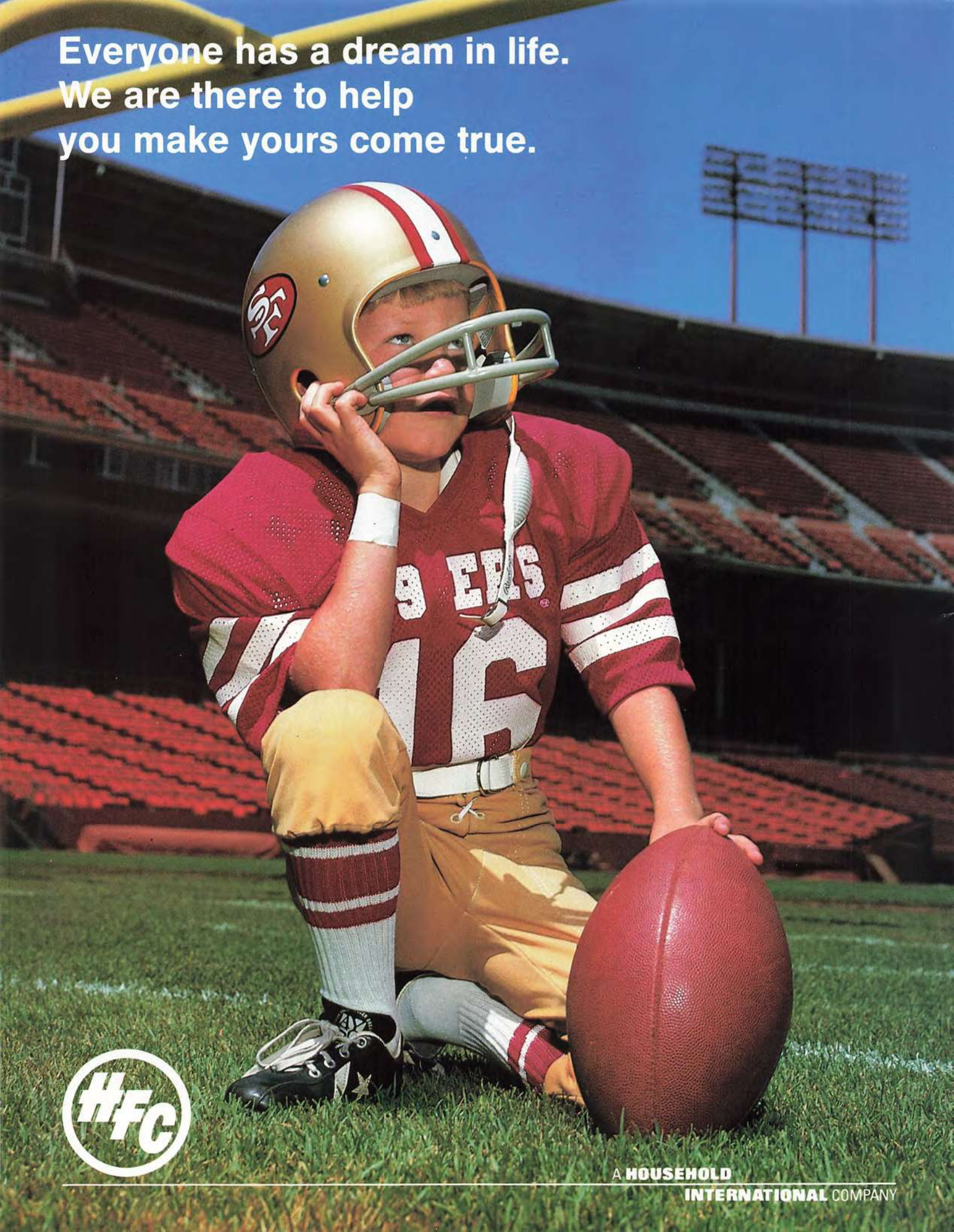
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San Francisco 23, Buffalo 10: Alone at the top at last. This win, plus New England's upset of the Rams, vaulted the 49ers into sole possession of first place in the NFC-West with a 9-6 record.

The offense had problems on a wet, slippery surface. There were six sacks and six dropped passes (five in the first half) as the players slipped around on the wet turf like kids trying to ice skate in street shoes.

One standout on offense was center Fred Quillan, who had a great game against All-Pro nose tackle Fred Smerlas.

But it was the defense and special teams which carried the 49ers in this game.

The defense intercepted three passes—two by Lott, including one that punctuated a great goal line stand with 1:22 left.

The special teams' contribution included a blocked field goal by Lawrence Pillers; two fumble recoveries on kickoff coverage; and a 43-yard punt return by Dana McLemore which set up a field goal.

Montana hands off during Dec. 11 win over Buffalo.

San Francisco 42, Dallas 17: The 49ers had their Christmas present delivered a few days early. The Cowboys had already clinched a playoff spot and played with so little enthusiasm that the victory was indeed a gift.

But the 49ers tore into it enthusiastically, becoming only the second team

Wright intercepts pass during win over Dallas, Dec. 19.

since the 1960's to win three consecutive games from the Cowboys.

Again the offense was inconsistent but was bailed out by a great show by the special teams and the defense—which nicknamed itself "Manimals."

The Manimals set up two touchdowns and scored one. They ate up three interceptions, including one by Wright that was returned 43 yards for a touchdown, and swallowed two fumbles. And McLemore returned a punt 56 yards for a touchdown.

The offense, which managed only 294 total yards, capitalized on Dallas blitzes to score three of the 49ers' five touchdowns—Montana passes of 6 yards to Craig; 77 yards to Freddie Solomon; and 18 yards to Russ Francis.

The win put the 49ers in the divisional playoff against Detroit, but the victory celebration was muted by a knee injury to Dwight Clark which would put him out of post-season competition.

* * *

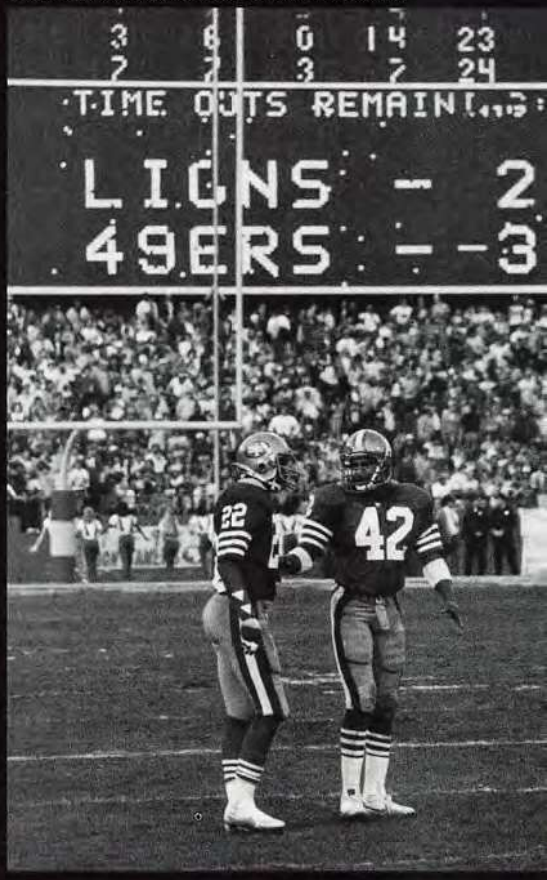
San Francisco 24, Detroit 23: The 49ers were poised on the brink of defeat when Lions' kicker Eddie Murray lined up to try a 44-yard field goal with 11 seconds left. As the clock ticked down to five seconds, his attempt was wide by only a foot or two.

So the 49ers had pulled out and then clung to a dramatic playoff victory at Candlestick that once again reminded many of the famed NFC championship victory over Dallas in January of 1982. That historic triumph featured The Drive—an 89-yard movement which began with 4:54 in the game. And it ended with The Catch by Clark with 51 seconds left.

On New Year's Eve, 1984, The Drive II began with 4:44 remaining in the fourth quarter. Nine efficient plays and 70 yards later, Solomon ran a lonely post pattern to make The Catch II, a 14-yard touchdown with 1:23 left.

Then came the tense drama of Detroit's last drive to the 25-yard line. Murray had ended the first half with a 54-yard field goal. But he had also missed a 43-yarder wide left in the

Below: Hicks and Lott wait for clock to run out in victory over Lions, Dec. 31; Bottom: Billy Simms runs into Board's tackle.



An imposing offensive line confronts Redskins, Jan. 8.

second half. His final, dramatic effort sailed wide right, launching the 49ers into the NFC championship game.

But once again the offense had been inconsistent throughout the game and it was the defense which kept the 49ers in it with five interceptions, including two by rookie linebacker Riki Ellison.

A somewhat overlooked hero was Wright, who hustled across the field in the second quarter to tackle Lions running back Billy Sims on the four-yard line after a 56-yard gain. Detroit eventually had to settle for a field goal.

"Thank God for the defense," said Montana.

"Amen," said Walsh.

Washington 24, San Francisco 21: This time the 49ers trailed 21-0 in the fourth quarter before launching their comeback.

This time the defense, with controversial calls from the officials, could not stop the Redskins when it had to.

This time the field goal kicker, Mark Mosely, did make the winning field goal—a 25-yarder with 40 seconds left.

So this time the 49ers were stopped one step away from the Super Bowl.

There are many who believe they should have and would have gone all the way if it hadn't been for two controversial calls during the Redskins' winning drive—a pass interference flag on cornerback Wright that moved the ball 27 yards to the 18, and a hold charge on Lott after an incomplete pass to a different part of the field on third and five from the 13.

Four plays and 80 precious seconds later, Mosely made his decisive field goal, his first good kick after four misses.

And that was also the first long, sustained drive that the Redskins pieced together all day, thanks to a fine defensive job by nose tackle Pete Kugler, playing his final game as a 49er.

The penalty on Lott and the 80 seconds it lost may well have cost the 49ers a victory. After another inconsistent beginning on offense, they were championship hot in the final quarter. Their 21 points were rung up on three drives generated in an elapsed time of only 2:30. This was in stark contrast to their first ten futile drives which all ended in a fizzle.

"Yeah, we made too many mistakes on offense at first," said Cross. "But once we quit making those mistakes we knew and they knew that they weren't going to stop us. And they didn't. The officials did."

Solomon outdistances Washington pursuers for TD.

Reynolds and Board stop Redskins' Riggins.

"Those were silly calls," said Walsh of the penalties. "They were made by men who saw an opportunity to have an impact on an historical event. Unbelievable. It's a shame."

So ended the 49ers season, one game—some would say two penalty flags—away from the Super Bowl.

But the 49ers had regained the respectability they earned while winning Super Bowl XVI. As their 1983 highlight film so aptly put it, the 49ers were "Back Among the Best."

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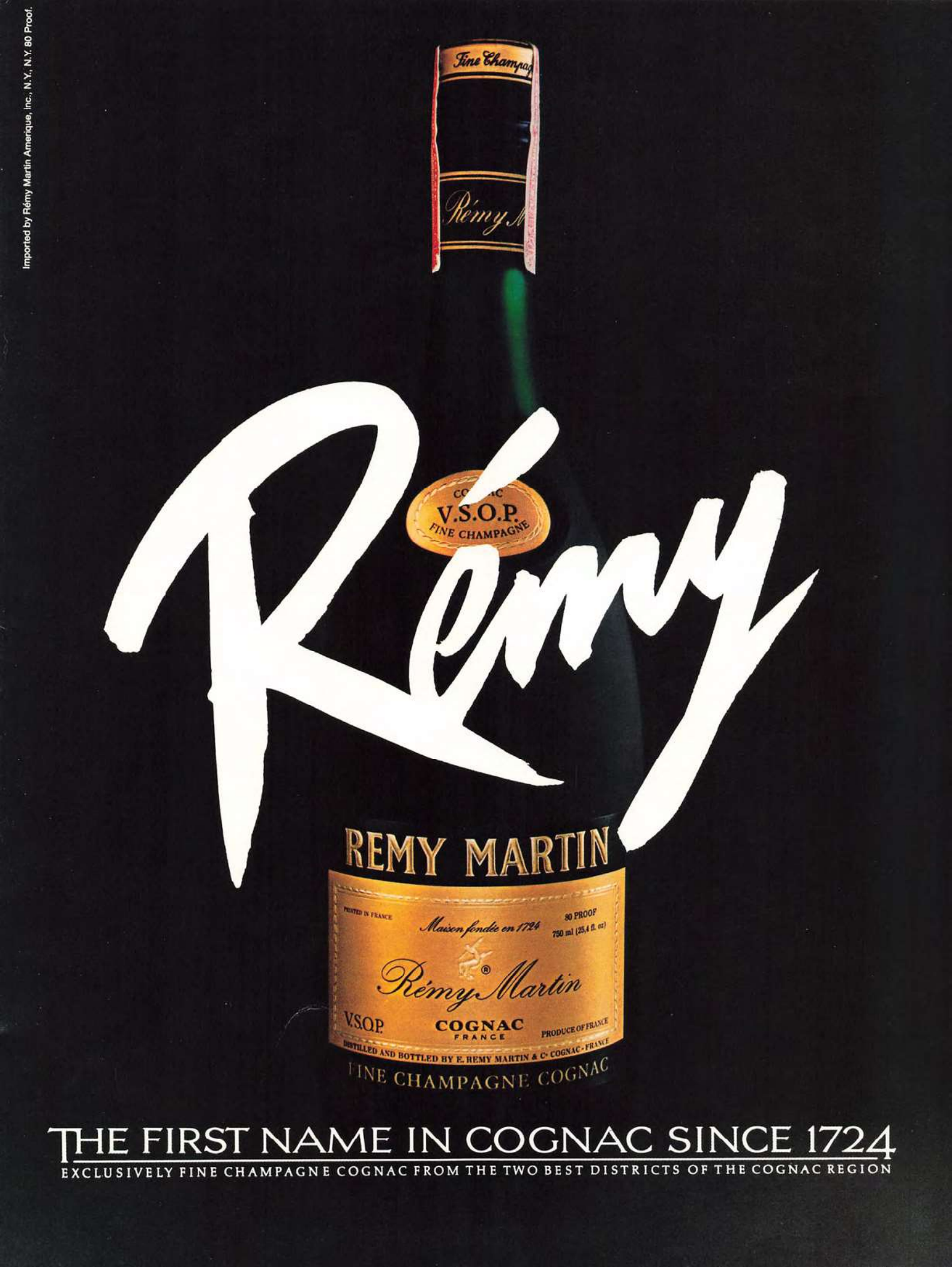

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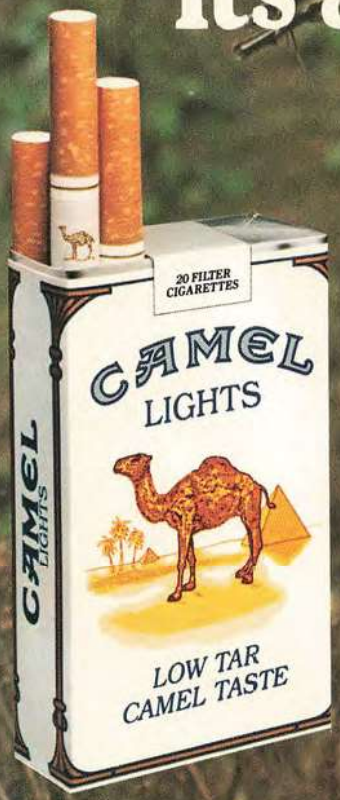

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